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SECRETS OF THE NINJA
by Ashida Kim

Are Ninjas the ultimate warriors? Read the *Secrets of the Ninja* and discover why this 2,000-year-old sect of silent stalkers has made headlines in the Western world after centuries of claiming horrified respect in the Orient. The Ninja were called Wizards of Invisibility. Certainly, at the height of their art, they were absolutely unseeable. And now, Paladin unveils the deepest, darkest secrets of those ancient assassins. Learn how you, too, can enter rooms unseen, climb vertical walls, and scout unknown territory in ways even more stealthy than the original Indians ever used.

A practicing Ninja himself, author Ashida Kim offers excellent instruction in the Silent Way. Step-by-step, prodigiously photo-illustrated chapters cover meditation methods, principles of light and shadow, escapes from holds, fighting multiple adversaries, *Inpo* (The Art of Hiding), *Pa Pu* (Night Walking Ability), and many other *Secrets of the Ninja*. The Ninjitsu approach is not always empty-handed—here's how the grappling hook, *Ninja-To* (sword), rope, and other devices can work to a Ninja's advantage. Understand what it means to operate the Silent Way and gain unique insight into this shrouded realm of martial arts.

Over two years in the making, this beautifully designed collector's volume is, without doubt, the finest Ninja training work ever published. Do not confuse *Secrets of the Ninja* with any other book on the subject. With over 200 vivid action photographs, 16 chapters, and 168 big pages, this book far outstrips any attempted imitation. This is the real thing! 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, drawings, 200 photos, 168 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-234-1 **\$16.95**

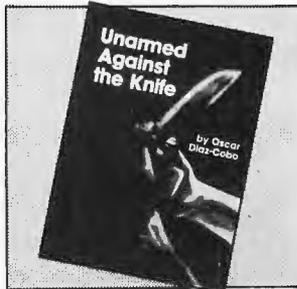
RIOT CONTROL Material and Techniques by Col. Rex Applegate

Newly revised 1981 edition of Col. Applegate's classic manual on riot-makers, riot control, techniques and equipment. In 1980, worldwide riots claimed many lives and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property. The coming years promise even more mob violence and civil disorder. *Riot Control* is meant to help correct this critical situation. It is an up-to-date study of the tactics and tools needed to defeat every type of riot action. Law enforcement officials particularly will welcome this new edition to their libraries. Supplies complete training information on organizing riot patrols and large forces, handling barricade and sniper situations, prevention of looting, clearing houses and streetfighting, using the riot baton and chemical agents, and much more. *Riot Control* also includes a complete survey of modern riot control gear, such as chemical agents, foggers, batons, helmets, firearms, vehicles, etc. Hundreds of equipment photos and practical line illustrations. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, illus., 300 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-208-2 **\$19.95**

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B. L., Ontario, Canada

RHODESIAN S.A.S. COMBAT MANUAL

Obtained from a member of the Rhodesian Special Air Service Squadron, this scarce combat manual is now available to Paladin readers for the first time. The Rhodesian military forces were long regarded as one of the world's finest. This is the principal guide used to conduct the enormously successful operations—counter guerrilla ops, air ops, ambushing, and notable attacks on terrorist base camps—during the Rhodesian antiterrorist war. Contents include: Standard Security Terminology and Abbreviations, Communication, Rural Operations, Ambushing of Insurgents, Movement by Road, Land/Air Operations, and First Aid. All of it is useful to anyone planning for or participating in a COIN-type operation. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, diagrams, charts, 110 pp. **\$12.00**



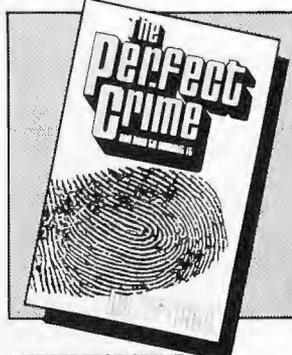
UNARMED AGAINST THE KNIFE
by Oscar Diaz-Cobo

The book on knife combat that had to be written! Now you can learn how to stop knife-wielding thugs and bullies dead in their tracks. Not a rehash on general knife fighting, *Unarmed Against the Knife* is the only complete self-defense book on hand-to-knife combat. Author Oscar Diaz-Cobo learned the secrets of hand-to-hand combat on the streets of Newark, New Jersey, one of the meanest training grounds in America. Here he combines street savvy with close-combat martial arts to give you practical knife-fighting and disarming techniques. Over 100 photos demonstrate how to gain a mental and physical advantage over the attacker, then move in to attack and destroy him.

Chapter titles include: Psychology of the Knife Fighter, Physical and Mental Conditioning, Attack and Destroy, Combat Tactics, Hand-To-Knife Combat, Knife Lock and Hold Defenses, Specialized Knife Attacks, Make-Sure Weapons and Attacks, and What to Do If You Get Cut. Ideal for self defense and martial arts experts as well as average safety conscious citizens. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, 100 photos, 88 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-243-0 **\$8.00**

FLEXIBLE WEAPONS by John Sanchez

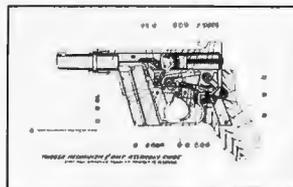
From the author of *Slash and Thrust* comes the definitive study on flexible weapons, complete with construction details and training methods. Revealing a unique dimension to self-defense, Sanchez examines the advantages to fighting with flexible weapons. Chain maces, manrikikusari, steel whips, meteor balls, and rope knives—all are treated individually and intensively. Their lethal potential is for real! And realism—physical and mental—is the bottom line in this book. The author offers programs for solo and partner training; the section on sparring techniques includes designs for mock weapons and protective gear. Line drawings illustrate assorted weapons, strikes, carries, engagement attitudes, and anatomical targeting. Blocking, gripping, locking, roping, and thrusting are also discussed in specific detail. Sanchez's new manual is a companion piece to the popular *Slash and Thrust*: at the same time *Flexible Weapons* stands alone as a very special self-defense book. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 80 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-219-8 **\$8.00**



THE PERFECT CRIME
and How to Commit It
by Dr. Jekel

The title says it all! Here's the hottest item in the book world today. *The Perfect Crime* and *How to Commit It* reveals tales of unsolved crimes and dispels the myth that crime doesn't pay. Arsonists, shoplifters, jewel thieves, cat burglars, murderers, ace detectives, and top criminals contributed (some unwittingly) to make *The Perfect Crime* a startling expose of crime and criminals.

With less than 21 percent of all reported crimes solved, Dr. Jekel had a wealth of material at her disposal. She spent two years investigating and interviewing experts on both sides of the law. Jekel takes a hard look at America's loophole-ridden judicial system, which creates "successful criminals out of many hopelessly inept bunglers." *The Perfect Crime* is filled with information on the technical advancements of modern police laboratories, "a major hazard for successful criminals." Nowadays, an experienced detective can take fingerprints from inside a rubber glove, or identify a criminal's sex and blood type from a single hair. In consecutive chapters, Dr. Jekel dissects and analyzes perfect crimes of theft, fraud, forgery, arson, shoplifting, and of course—murder. *The Perfect Crime* and *How to Commit It* is sure to thrill crime fans, mystery lovers, and adventurers.
5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 208 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-237-6 **\$14.95**

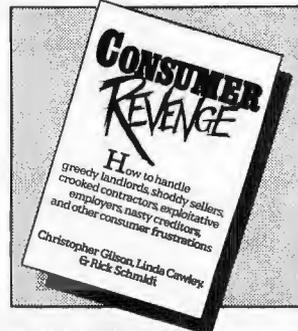


**THE AR-7 EXOTIC
WEAPONS SYSTEM**
by John Sanchez

An unusual home workshop guide for the gun buff and hobbyist machinist. Over fifty working machinist's drawings, photos and full-scale templates show exactly how to convert the AR-7.22 survival rifle into a full-automatic silenced machine pistol, submachine gun or sophisticated silenced weapon. *The AR-7 Exotic Weapons System* was created by the same firearms designer who authored the famed *Paladin* title, *Home Workshop Silencers*. This new comprehensive instruction manual details how to modify the weapon's original receiver, fabricate new sear and safety, as well as make a simple yet efficient silencer group assembly. Each drawing in *The AR-7 Exotic Weapons System* is of the highest quality. Fans of exotic weaponry and amateur gunsmiths will find this a valuable addition to their libraries and an excellent gift book. For historical and reference purposes only. 9 x 12, softcover, machinist's drawings, photos, full-scale templates, 72 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-242-2 **\$12.00**

SPECIAL FORCES RECONNAISSANCE HANDBOOK

Successful reconnaissance depends on the motivation and training of the recon team. This new *Paladin* reprint details proven U.S. Army reconnaissance techniques, and patrolling methods that help bring your men back alive from the bush—where anything can happen. Scouting tactics, insertion and communication techniques, team organization, composition, equipment, and patrol planning are covered in depth. Special attention is devoted to air infiltration and exfiltration, tracking, and use of human senses to obtain combat intelligence. A must for the beginner. A refresher for the old-timer. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, charts, 122 pp. **\$12.00**



CONSUMER REVENGE
by Christopher Gilson, Linda Cawley, & Rick Schmidt

Looking for new revenge ideas? *Consumer Revenge* is the everyday consumer's guide for getting even! This all-new handbook gives workable ideas for taking vengeance on "greedy landlords, shoddy sellers, crooked contractors, exploitative employees, nasty creditors, and other consumer frustrations."

A "Revenge Kit" at the end of every chapter makes it easy. Just follow the step-by-step instructions, complete with sample letters, and other methods of taking revenge on society's consumer institutions and government bureaucracies.

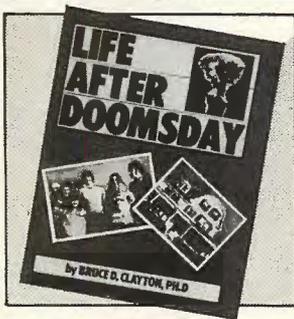
Learn how to gain the personal satisfaction of winning the battle against automobile manufacturers, restaurants, banks, credit institutions, contractors, insurance brokers, and moving companies.

Additional chapters cover "Arrest: Avenging and Burying a Police Record," "Driving Violations: Keeping Your Record in the Driver's Seat," and "Burglars, Thieves, and Muggers: Do Unto Them As They Do Unto You." An appendix lists direct phone numbers of industry arbitration sources. Every consumer should have this useful, practical guide to fighting back!
5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, 300 pp. N.D.
ISBN 0-399-12668-6 **\$13.95**

CARE & FEEDING OF TENANTS by Andy Kane

A humorous yet practical look at the lucrative art of landlordism by an author who may be the meanest man in America. A born cynic, former gag writer Realtor Andy Kane tells how to keep wily tenants in their place—paying rent to make their landlord rich. Landlording is one profession that requires no qualifications, yet it pays off twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year. In *Care & Feeding of Tenants*, Kane tells income property owners how to collect rents, train tenants to pay promptly and make minor repairs, fill vacancies, outsmart do-gooder groups and inspectors, handle complaints, and make a bundle off tenants besides their rent. Sex, money, crime, violence—landlords and tenants alike are plagued with the issues of everyday life. Andy Kane tells it like it is. Don't miss the gory details!

Perfect for real estate agents, income property owners, and anyone who enjoys a good laugh. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 120 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-240-6 **\$6.95**



LIFE AFTER DOOMSDAY
by Dr. Bruce Clayton

Who will survive the nuclear war that many experts predict is coming? *Life After Doomsday* tells you how to survive through such a nuclear nightmare. It is an exhaustive investigation of the strategies needed to survive an atomic war, and of the problems that will face those who do live through it. Suggests a step-by-step procedure for creating individual survival plans, including previously uncollected information about shelters, food storage, home medical techniques, and the psychology of survival. The difficult problem of shelter defense is also closely examined. Tells you the prime nuclear target areas in the U.S., as well as those areas least likely to be attacked. Dr. Clayton offers a practical discussion of both the short- and long-term effects of nuclear weapons' use, and ensuing medical consequences. Explains how to measure fallout radiation, and build an expedient fallout shelter on short notice.

One of the most comprehensive and up-to-date works ever compiled on modern survivalism, *Life After Doomsday* is also an excellent reference on surviving through any major disaster. An invaluable addition to your survival library. Includes dozens of useful charts, drawings, and photos. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, illus., 200 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-175-2 **\$19.95**



THE 100 DEADLIEST KARATE MOVES
by Dr. Ted Gambordella

Discover the 100 most lethal kicks, shotos, and blows perfected by the world's greatest karate masters. No flowery katas. Only hard-hitting, practical karate techniques that could save your life! In *The 100 Deadliest Karate Moves*, Dr. Ted Gambordella, a 5th degree black belt, teaches you how to fight to the death, if need be. Over 100 dramatic photos show exactly which vital points to attack to cripple or kill your opponent.

This book is not for dojo ballerinas; it is for men who take their fighting art seriously. Just a sample of the deadly moves covered are: snap kicks, heel kicks, vital points of the head and chest, shotos, palm heels, ridge hands, and many more! A special chapter on street fighting with karate makes this a super selection for any self-defense specialist. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, over 100 photos, 88 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-245-7 **\$8.00**

U.S. ARMY SNIPER TRAINING MANUAL

With the help of this "sniper's bible," the famed U.S. Army snipers in Vietnam killed 1187 VC in one five-month period alone. Only 1.37 rounds were expended per kill, at an average range of 450 meters! An excellent source of information for not only target and sniping work, but also helpful to the hunter as it covers camouflage, shooting techniques and positions, correct lead, map and compass reading, and necessary equipment for survival in the field. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, over 100 illustrations, 196 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-120-5 **\$14.95**

COMBAT SURVIVAL

Never before available to the public. An extremely useful, comprehensive training manual on physical and combat survival, tactics, and techniques. Our inside sources believe that this is the same manual used to instruct Great Britain's elite Special Air Service (SAS). These specialists in secret warfare were responsible for the daring 1980 hostage rescue operation at the Iranian embassy in London. *Combat Survival* illustrates combat and survival training and tactical methods useful in similar ops, as well as general survival conditions. Also contains rare info on evading and silencing guard dogs, sabotage and intelligence gathering, navigating under survival conditions, and much more. Includes over 100 detailed line drawings and valuable charts. Chapter titles include: Evasion; Survival Navigation; Improvisation and Escape Kit; Contacting Agents; Dog Evasion; Wild Foods; Animal Traps and Snares; Fishing; Water Survival Still; Shelter; Primitive Medicine; and four more. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 156 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-212-00 **\$14.95**



MANTRAPPING
by Ragnar Benson

Mantrapping is the first book ever published to explain how to capture that most dangerous animal: man. Ragnar Benson, well known as the author of *Survival Poaching*, has based this gut-wrenching book on his own personal mantrapping experiences while on special assignments in Asia, Africa, North and South America, and Cuba. You have to see this one to believe it! Reveals over a dozen different traps specifically designed to catch and kill humans. Illustrated with detailed line drawings covering such mantraps as the Malaysian Hawk, the Andes Mountain Trail Trap, the Sheepcater's Rock Fall, and the Cuban Water Trap. Survivalists can use these systems to help protect their retreats. As Benson says: "To know how to trap your enemy is to know how to avoid being trapped yourself." Each trap is constructed with primitive materials and tools. Includes a special chapter on the philosophy of mantrapping. 7 x 8 1/2, softcover, 15 chapters, illus., 88 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-215-5 **\$8.00**

HOT CARS!

An Inside Look at the Auto Theft Industry
By Marcus Wayne Ratledge

Life isn't fair and neither is a car thief. Read *Hot Cars!* before you buy your next used car, or your hard-earned money may be putting steak on a thief's table for a year.

Hot Cars! gives an inside look into the minds and methods of professional car thieves. Author Marcus Wayne Ratledge reveals the tricks of the multimillion-dollar industry he knows so well—car theft.

An ex-car thief, Ratledge was once part of a million-dollar theft ring. Now he tells private buyers, dealers, insurance claims adjusters, and law officers what the thieves know—and don't know—about legitimizing fake papers and serial numbers on stolen cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, trailers, and even airplanes.

Photos show what to look for to detect whether or not a vehicle's serial number has been altered. A comprehensive checklist details what questions to ask a seller to be sure he's legit. Chapter titles include *Dispelling the Myths, Hot Car For Sale, Private Purchasers, Beware!, Auto Conversion, Steal-Strip-Purchase-Repair, Protecting Dealership Vehicles, Insurance Agents—A Line of Defense, First Aid for Legal Loopholes, Motorcycle Conversion, and Airplane Conversion.*

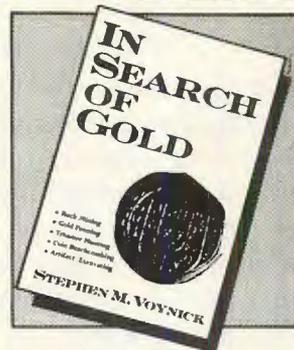
The author of another popular Paladin title, *Don't Become the Victim*, Ratledge tells used vehicle buyers how to avoid being taken for a ride financially by thieves. Don't be left holding the loan payment book for an auto that has been confiscated by police. Read *Hot Cars!* 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 136 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-220-1 **\$5.95**

FIREARM SILENCERS Vol. 2
by John Minnery

John Minnery, creator of the terrifying *How To Kill* series, has written this all-new study about that primary tool of the covert assassin — the firearm silencer. Presented are over two hundred large-format pages of illustrations, machinist's drawings, historical info, and top secret SAC-14 material concerning silencer use in WWII. **This material has never before been available to the public!** Highlighting the book are rare photos of prototype silenced weapons such as the M-1 carbine, Hi-Standard .22 pistol, Czech Model 1927 pistol used by the Gestapo, Browning Model 1917 heavy machine gun (you should see this monster!), Springfield 1903-A3 rifle with Maxim silencer and a Pedersen full-auto conversion device, and dozens of other exotic silenced firearms.

Minnery collectors and silencer aficionados should take note of *Firearm Silencers Vol. 2*. It is an eye-opening look at these devices of whispering death, written by a man who knows what he's talking about. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 224 pp. **\$9.95**

"I have been purchasing your books for several years now. I am very pleased with the speed and quality of your service. You have a very good selection of subjects that are of interest to me." D.S.



IN SEARCH OF GOLD
by Stephen M. Voynick

Men have killed for gold. The lure of great riches and the lust for hot-blooded adventure have driven more than a few people to desperate measures. And in the gold-getting game right now, the stakes are high and the profits are terrific.

In Search of Gold is the all-new, how-to guide to profit and action in the gold business. Packed with true accounts of abandoned mines, buried treasure, and golden galleons still waiting to be found, this is the book on the realities and legalities of gold—how to get it and how to keep it.

Stephen M. Voynick doesn't just write about gold. He finds it. Voynick's own successful searches make this book worth its weight in facts alone. He knows the territory as only one who's been there—and back—can know it. Follow him far into the bush country of Alaska, ninety miles from the nearest paved road, washing gold from gravels abandoned long ago; deep in the Costa Rican jungles, digging sacred Indian gold from pre-Columbian graves; and to the New Jersey shore, within two hours' driving time of millions of people, "clamming" for old coins worth thousands of dollars.

In Search of Gold is a manual for weekend prospectors as well as full-time treasure salvagers. The author provides coverage on the newest technology and equipment within the budget of any gold seeker. This handsome hardcover edition features something extra: eight exciting pages of full-color, on-the-spot shots of recent gold recoveries.

Today more than ever, gold makes the venture worth the investment. If you're looking for pocket money, or a possible fortune, look first at Paladin's most dynamic title of the new year. 6 x 9, hardcover, full-color photos, maps, 216 pp.
ISBN 0-87364-238-4 **\$15.95**

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EDITOR'S NOTES

ATTENTION: NRA LIFE MEMBERS

I assume one of the main reasons you are a Life Member is because you are concerned about your Second Amendment rights! You can show the extent of your concern by participating in the annual NRA Board of Directors election. In the near future you will receive your ballot.

If you're like me, in the past you let the ballot material gather dust until you threw it out; unfortunately, a majority of NRA Life Members do exactly this! After all, we won't know the slate and their qualifications unless we make an effort to find out about the candidates from people who know them and read their published biographies. Since 1977, I have become very concerned about the direction of the NRA and I have made it a point to find out about the candidates. A small elitist group, now controlling the Board of Directors and officers of the NRA, is embarrassed by a vigorous defense of our Second Amendment rights. These are the same people who brought the NRA so dangerously far from this important mission before 1977. Our research has shown that the preponderance of NRA members, both old and new, regard the defense of these rights as the most important reason for belonging to the NRA.

I've carefully researched the list of candidates and recommend the following to you as the people most concerned about these rights and your other interests:

Dan Bechtel
David I. Caplan
Jim Carmichel
John D. (Jeff) Cooper
Richard L. Corrigan
Donn DiBiasio
Fritz R. Dixon, MD
Kenneth Fanning
Fletcher Harris, Jr.
Phillip W. Johnston
David W. Kimes
David B. Lyman

Ralph A. Musella
Ted N. Pool
Richard "Dick" Ray
Richard D. Riley
Michael Slavonic
Raymond Heitt Smith
Edwin B. Topmiller, Sr.
Robert W. Tullis
James Valentine, Jr.
James M. Vinopal
Francis G. Winters
John H. Wooters, Jr.

I also urge all Life Members to attend the annual convention in Philadelphia the first week of May 1982, where you can exercise your franchise directly by modifying the bylaws of the NRA to make the organization more responsive to the membership. If you plan to do this, you should contact the man we feel best-qualified to inform you of the issues involved and give you the general background of the entire situation. For further information, please contact Dunlop Farreh, Secretary, Federation for the NRA, 5605 S. Rice Ave., Houston, TX 77081.

—Robert K. Brown

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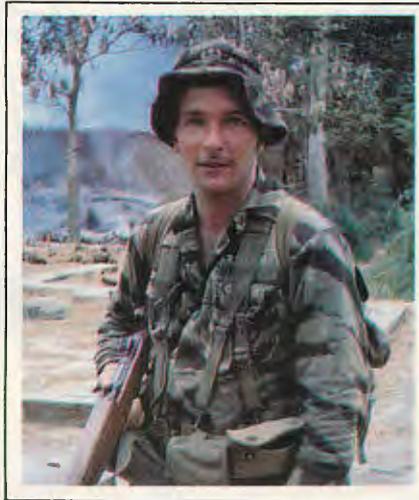
WITCHES, WARLOCKS AND WASPS 62

Al J. Venter

South African knives pack deadly sting.



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COVER: SOF Exclusive — First published photo of H&K G-11 rifle actually firing 4.7x21mm caseless ammo. Note lack of ejection port, all-plastic composition and unorthodox appearance. Article on this and other weapons featured at ADPA symposium starts on p. 33.

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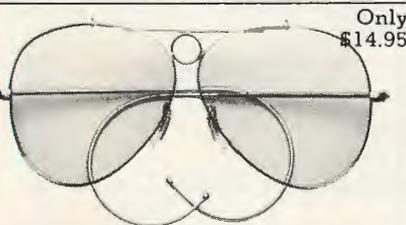
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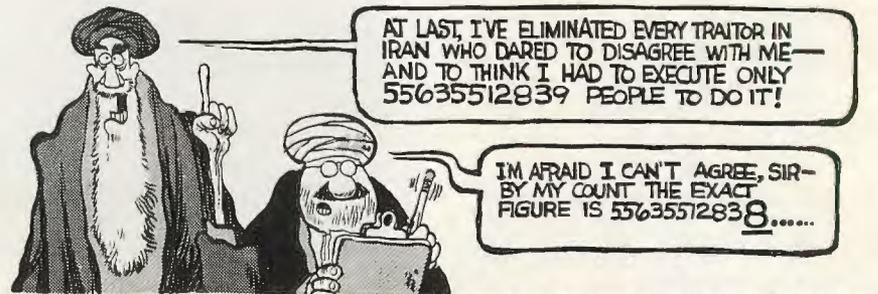
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BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos



AT LAST, I'VE ELIMINATED EVERY TRAITOR IN IRAN WHO DARED TO DISAGREE WITH ME— AND TO THINK I HAD TO EXECUTE ONLY 55635512839 PEOPLE TO DO IT!

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T AGREE, SIR— BY MY COUNT THE EXACT FIGURE IS 55635512838.....

BLAM! BLAM!!!



55635512839.

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OF ARMS AND THE MEN ...

A new exhibit, "Arms and the Men — A History of Infantry Weapons," will be shown at the U.S. Marine Corps Museum in Washington, D.C., throughout 1982.

The exhibit integrates the history of weapons technology with the development of tactics and organization.

Besides this special exhibit of more than 100 military weapons, the museum tells the story of Marine history and includes dioramas of eight famous battles.

The museum is just inside the Washington Navy Yard at 9th and M Streets.

The program's cost, as estimated by DoD, is between \$100 million and \$200 million.

ELECT CHAIRMAN JEFF ...

Jeff Cooper, the grand old man of combat pistol shooting and founding president of the International Practical Shooting Confederation, is running for the Board of Directors of the NRA. Chairman Jeff has been a strong supporter of 2nd Amendment rights for many decades. He presently heads up the American Pistol Institute, Gunsite Ranch, Paulden, Ariz. SOF strongly recommends voting for Jeff.

COSTLY HANDGUNS ...

A House of Representatives subcommittee has recommended that plans to replace the service .45 and .38-Special handguns with a 9mm weapon be either cancelled or deferred indefinitely.

The House Armed Service Subcommittee on Investigation cited excessive costs and said the Defense Department had not studied the matter adequately.

ADDRESS CHANGE ...

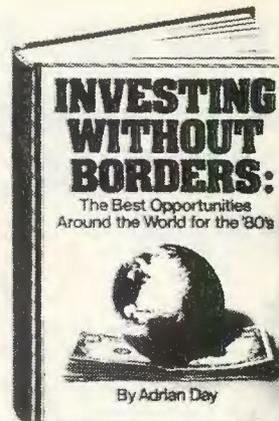
An incorrect address was given for George Hawkins, author of "Horseman Pass By," in the January '82 issue. Hawkins can be reached at 520 Military Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Continued on page 86

- Your own private island for just \$6,000.
- A stock market where buying is "almost like picking up IBM in '54"...and, where dividends often reach 15 and 20%!
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- The exciting resource group that many feel is the 1980's equivalent of gold and silver in the '70's.
- Ground floor opportunity in a neglected kind of coin. The author feels a boom is almost certain.
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- A Costa Rican trading company that handles accounts on a discretionary basis. Average gain in each of the company's first two years: an incredible 74.5%!
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- A stock which may be the future IBM of the Orient. Another described as "one of the best technology plays in Japan." 6 fields that will be the wave of the future in the country with the world's most active stock exchange.

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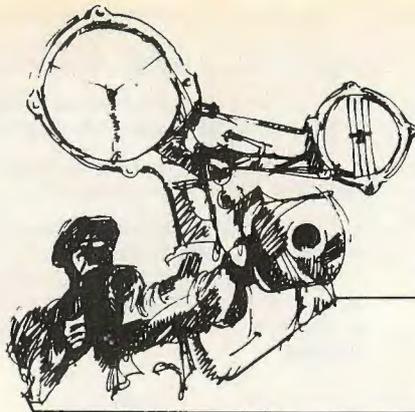
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FLAK

BIGOTED TRASH ...

Sirs:

I was disgusted by that trash called the *National Vanguard*. As a paratrooper and member of the 82nd Airborne Division, I served with many blacks and men of other races and religions. We soldiers are not afflicted with the stupidity of bigotry. I was considering cancelling my SOF subscription, but I thought things out and decided to call your office in Colorado. When I reached you by phone, I was treated very well and the entire situation was explained to me. I now know SOF's viewpoint on that rag, and I'm very glad to hear it.

Sincerely,
Clifford R. Fromwiller, Jr.
Lynbrook, New York

Mr. Fromwiller's letter is representative of the hundreds of mail and phone responses SOF has received concerning this issue. We've also received a few replies like the one below.
— The Eds.

AND "ARYAN" INSIGHTS ...

Sirs:

Regarding your letter of November 9, 1981, apologizing for the mailing of material to your subscribers by the National Alliance, we found nothing objectionable in the material that we received and it did address itself to some basic truths which your publication ignores.

Frankly, too much of your magazine's content addresses itself to subjects which in no way upset what has become known as "National Policy" and are therefore of little value to honest white folk.

I can only conclude that much of your support must come from the Jews, for they are the great mischief makers with the international race issues and are constantly doing all that is possible to promote some nigger as having more intelligence, etc., than the white people who made this country great. No, we don't credit the human garbage with doing anything more than sweeping floors, etc.

Stop acting like a Race Traitor and

face up to some basic truths. As a warrior people we get little out of your articles showing some nigger, Jew, Arab or gook fighting a war with weapons made by Aryan people. The glory of war is to destroy the enemy and if it isn't white it is our enemy and no bull shit from the Jew-controlled television or news media will ever change that.

So, why don't you show some guts for a change and give something to our people other than the bilge as approved by "National Policy" — or must we expect instead to hear that you support the "Genocide Treaty" now before Congress. Perhaps you are just too tainted to act like a white man at this late date and forever must play with the Jews.

For Race, Faith and Nation,
Hail Victory!
Keith D. Gilbert
Social Nationalist Aryan
People's Party
Post Falls, Idaho

Whether it's hail or "heil," fuck you, Gilbert. — R.K. Brown

MEMORIAL UPDATE ...

Sirs:

Bob Poos posted a report on the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial which was informational only (Bulletin Board, SOF, December '81). Although I think we all would like to see national appreciation paid to those who served their country in that effort, there are reasons why we should oppose this monument. Maya Ying Lin, the Yale undergraduate who designed it, opposes (in retrospect) U.S. involvement in that war. Her design calls for two black-granite walls wedged into the earth in a large V shape, resembling low-lying retaining walls. It is to be surrounded by contoured mounds of earth so that the visitor does not see it until he "stumbles upon it," the designer said, adding, it is an unexpected; black "rift in the earth." On these black-granite walls, the names

Continued on page 88

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Ken Hackathorn

QUITE often we hear a drugstore gun expert recommend the .22 long-rifle cartridge as the ideal self-defense round. Because the .22 is easy to shoot, it is a natural assumption that it is a good home-defense choice, and since it is the caliber most commonly used in homicides, people believe it must be a viable round. Although the .22 long-rifle cartridge has many applications for training and practice, it is not a sound choice for self-defense. Its popularity does not alter this fact.

Some students of weaponcraft use the argument that various spook agencies around the world use the .22 as a suppressed assassination weapon. The old OSS favorite was a High Standard HD Military fitted with a Maxim silencer. Israeli MOSSAD teams favor the Beretta .22 fitted with a suppressor. The most popular scratch gun on this side of the Atlantic is currently the Ruger Standard Model automatic modified with a built-in suppressor.

All these special-purpose guns are fine items, but what works well as a scratch gun does not necessarily make a good defensive sidearm. The suppressed .22 scratch pistol is used under very controlled circumstances. The target usually has little knowledge of danger. Shots are delivered at very close range, firing the silenced .22 in a series of fast bursts into the target's head. Instantaneous kills are the rule. If the attack comes from the front, the target will be the eye sockets in a burst of four to five rapid shots. From the side, the ear canal is the target. Most frequently, the attack comes from behind so that the target is unaware of what is happening. Here the target is the base of the skull. From all angles, a single .22 round is considered marginal; therefore, a series of shots is fired to ensure permanent results.

The .22 is also the cartridge most favored by poachers. Sport is not part of poaching; it takes only careful, steady aiming to shoot a deer in the head from 30 yards while the animal is blinded by a spotlight. Although many animals are wounded and run away to die later, poachers could care less. Even though this quiet round is the poacher's choice, you would be foolish to take a .22 into the woods during deer season and expect to bring home the venison. A deer pumped full of adrenaline is hard to stop even with a .30-06.

The difficulty of stopping a running

Continued on page 92

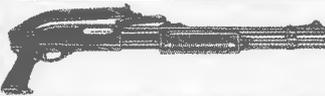
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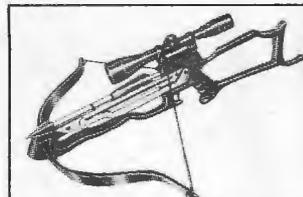
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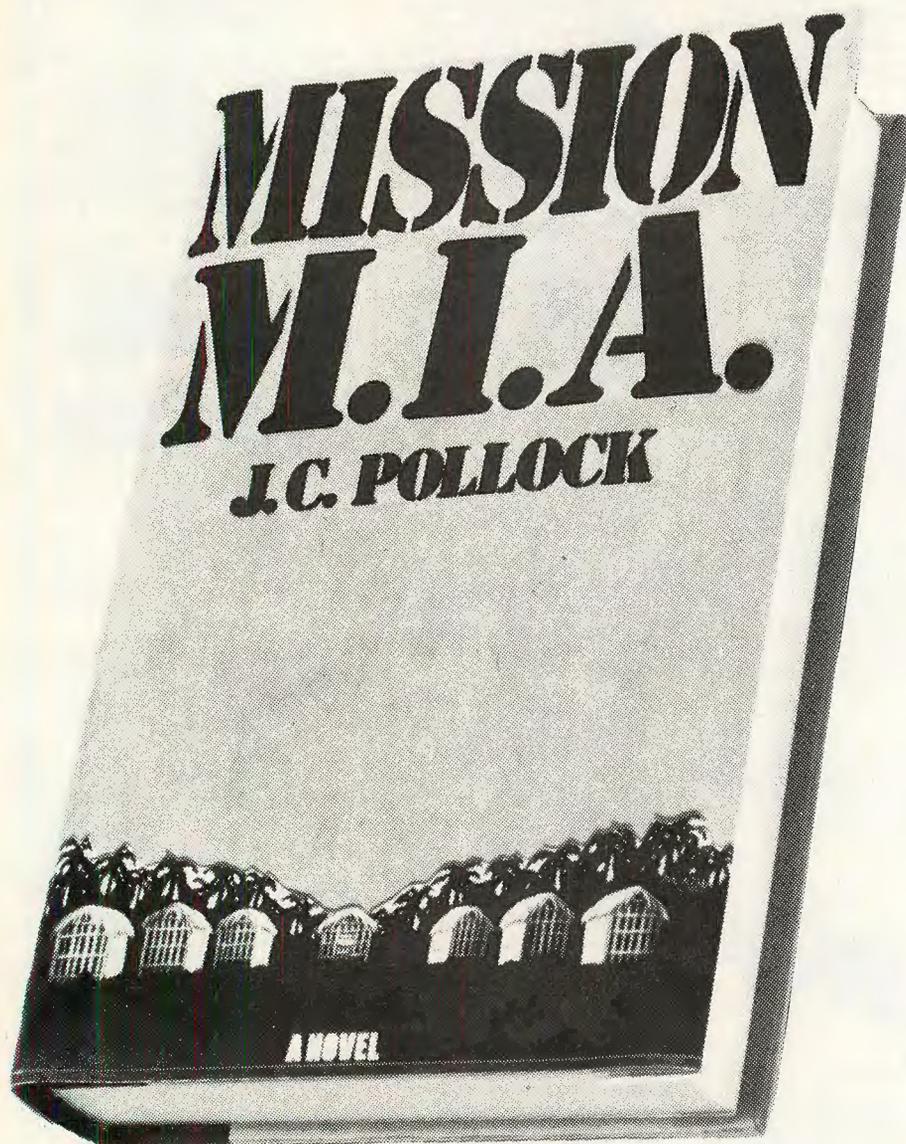
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IN REVIEW



MISSION M.I.A. By J.C. Pollock. New York: Crown Publishing Co., January 1982. 288 pp. \$12.95. Review by Bob Poos.

EDITOR'S NOTE: SOF seldom reviews works of fiction. Fields of Fire and Targets are two exceptions, but they were both based on personal experiences of their authors and were actually the truth fictionalized for literary purposes. Mission M.I.A., on the other hand, comes purely from the author's imagination, based on a number of interviews with former Green Berets, some of them one-time prisoners of the Viet Cong or North Vietnamese. But the novel may turn out to be as accurate as tomorrow's news. Furthermore, it is SOF's sincere belief that American servicemen remain in communist captivity in Southeast Asia and this

novel probably states with accuracy the conditions under which they suffer.

Mission M.I.A. should be required reading for all servicemen who served in Southeast Asia, and for their families. It is one of the best — and most troubling — books I have read this year.

The basic scenario is simple: Master Sgt. Frank Detimore, along with several others, remains a North Vietnamese prisoner in 1981 — 12 years after being captured.

With the certain knowledge that he'll be tortured, he aids in the escape of two former Montagnard mercenaries who worked for the Special Forces. His torture is worth the result, because he gives one of the escapees a letter to his wife, Betty, coded so that she will know it is not a

cruel hoax.

Betty, rebuffed by top brass in the Pentagon (who privately admit that they are lying to her and are reasonably certain that many Americans remain in captivity), decides to take more direct action.

She contacts Jack Callahan, former leader of Detimore's Studies and Observation Group from Command and Control South (Ban Me Thuot). She wants him to assemble a team of mercenaries to raid the prison camp in which her husband is being held. A crude map enclosed in his smuggled-out letter indicates that it is only a few clicks from the old SF camp at Lang Vei, an area which Callahan knew well.

Betty's father is a wealthy man and can guarantee every merc a \$50,000 fee.

But Callahan, a ski instructor at Aspen, Colo., has a better idea: Rather than hiring a band of mercs, why not collect a group of men who knew Detimore well — and all of whom owed him their lives — his comrades on the SOG team.

He contacts four of them through the Special Forces Assn. — all are out of the Army, having been disillusioned by their country's no-win approach to the war. All agree to take part in the mission, suicidal though it may be.

The team: Joe Galimore, top-notch communications man; Rick Donatelli, light-weapons expert; Phil Houser, team medic; and Stan (Smashy) Badowski, the best demolitions man Callahan ever knew.

Some of the men have been successful in their civilian pursuits, and some have not. Houser is a surgeon and Donatelli a businessman. On the other hand, Smashy operates a not-very-successful bar near Fort Bragg and Galimore, a black, is trying to support a wife and child with two part-time jobs.

Now that Callahan has assembled his team, two things remain to be accomplished: One, arrange for a supply of weapons and secure means for a helicopter extraction from the prison camp; two, gather the team together for some tough training prior to the mission.

He tries to solve the first problem by contacting Justin Hanks, an unsavory New Orleans arms dealer. Hanks has no problem with the weapons — standard Vietnam fare, M16s, an M60 machine gun, M79 grenade launcher and Browning 9mm automatic pistols. He also claims he can arrange the chopper extraction through some Australian mercenaries with whom he is acquainted in Bangkok.

But now the CIA enters the picture. Alerted by the Pentagon that Betty Detimore is a determined woman and probably will not accept her rebuff without taking further action, she and Callahan have been shadowed by agents.

Callahan's combat instincts alert him to this and he ambushes his tail, works him over a little and warns him not to pursue the matter further. The agent, of course, cannot do that, and remains in the background.

The training is at Aspen, an ideal site:

high altitude that will yield maximum lung-expansion benefits from the daily 10-mile runs, mountains for rock climbing exercises and a reasonably well-secluded area for weapons practice.

Most of the men are in good physical condition — except Smashy, who has too long sampled the products sold in his bar and must lose 20 pounds. But he is determined to make the mission and simply works harder than the others.

Besides training, the team members have to study all the intelligence they can gather. A contact of Smashy's, still an active-duty Green Beret, has access to satellite photos of the camp and surrounding area. Detimore's letter has indicated that there are about 20 guards at the camp and a map he enclosed with his message shows the camp's rough dimensions. A pre-dawn personal recon of the place and a lightning-fast raid on sleeping guards should resolve the field problem.

Insertion will be by HALO (High Altitude, Low Opening) parachute drop. Extraction will be either by Hueys or a Chinook owned by the mercs.

The raid scene is a magnificent depiction of battle, and any man who has been in a fire fight will probably get sweaty palms when he reads it.

The raid itself is successful, but there is more to come in this book — a double-twist O'Henry-type ending that SOF is not going to give away in this review.

Pollock has gone to enormous lengths to make his book authentic — I immediately recognized some of the areas he described. His sources include: Sgt. Maj.

Dan Pitzer, decorated veteran of Korea and Vietnam — and four-year prisoner of the VC — and these other SF personnel: Command Sgt. Maj. Henry D. Luthy, Recon Platoon Commander I Corps Mobile Guerrilla Force and a member of seven A teams; Master Sgt. Kenneth McMullin, Platoon Commander II Corps Mike Force; Retired Master Sgt. Bobby Tuggle, Operations and Intelligence MACV/SOG IV Corps Seven Mountains area, and Retired Master Sgt. William M. Bennett, HALO and SCUBA instructor at SF 5th Group, Nha Trang.

Mission M.I.A. has an introduction by Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub (USA Ret.), which notes, "It is a shocking and tragic fact that today more than 2,400 American servicemen remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

"All but a few have been declared 'presumptively dead' by the Department of Defense."

But, the introduction continues, "From Vietnamese refugees have come scores of eyewitness accounts of groups of emaciated Americans, some in chains, being led under heavy guard along jungle trails or through villages to unknown destinations.

"Some of the firsthand sightings were reported as late as 1980 — five years after the fall of Saigon and seven years after the return of 566 American POWs from Hanoi, supposedly the last of our survivors."

Singlaub notes that it is significant that "13 French prisoners captured at Dien Bien Phu were not released by Hanoi until 16 years later."

And Singlaub concludes: "Countless

hours of testimony have been taken from refugees claiming to have seen American captives . . . the Defense Intelligence Agency was checking out 370 'live sightings' reports . . . Of these, 222 were said to have been firsthand sightings and the remaining hearsay.

"Exhaustive interrogation sessions, including polygraph tests, have convinced even skeptical U.S. authorities that many of the refugee reports are valid."

SOF agrees that at least some of these reports are true. The living conditions imposed upon these brave American servicemen must be as bad — if not much worse — than those forced upon men held in prison camps around Hanoi.

No one knows what motives might lie behind the Vietnamese decision to hold on to — and lie to the world about — American captives to this day. A good guess is that the Vietnamese may try to use the captives as pawns in an effort to gain war reparations.

Whatever the motives, it is time for the American government to employ forceful efforts to learn at least something about these missing men.

If reading this book inspires people to write their Congressional representatives — or the President — to bring this about, the book will be well worth the price.

In short, SOF is impressed by this novel and urges its readers to buy a copy as soon as it appears in the local book store.

Bob Poos, SOF's executive editor, is a former Marine and spent two years in Southeast Asia as a war correspondent for the Associated Press.

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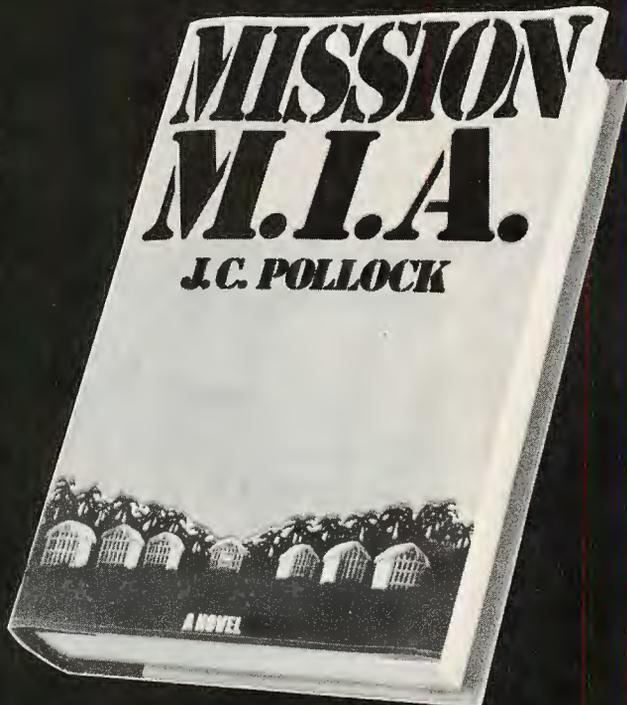
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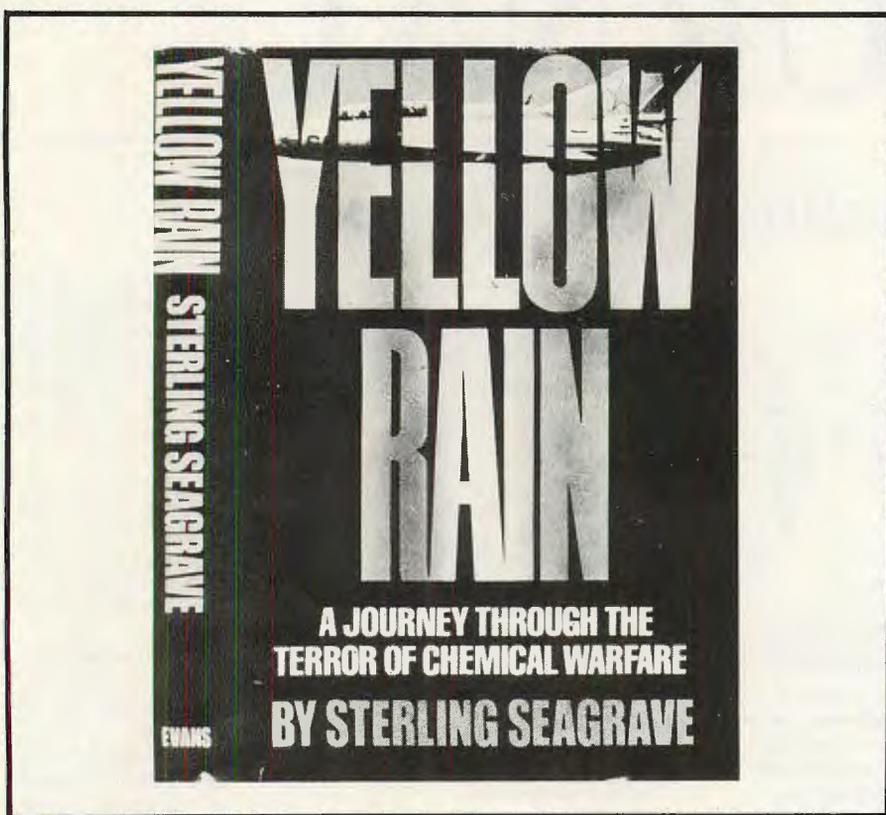
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IN REVIEW



YELLOW RAIN: A Journey Through the Terror of Chemical Warfare. By Sterling Seagrave. New York: M. Evans and Co., Inc. 1981. 316 pp. \$11.95. Review by Jim Coyne.

STERLING Seagrave is eminently capable of writing this insightful book. As he said in his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on chemical and biological attacks by communist forces against the people of Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan, "My family has lived in Asia for over 200 years..." His father was the famous "Burma Surgeon" of WWII to whom so many people, military and civilian, owe their lives.

Sterling Seagrave grew up in Asia and the United States, and covered the war in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos as a journalist for many years. As a result of his intimate knowledge and long involvement with Asia, his sources and contacts there are first-rate. He brings a great personal understanding of the people and politics of the region.

Most of the information revealed in **Yellow Rain** was unknown, or known to only a few individuals, prior to publication. It was, and continues to be, a real-life cloak-and-dagger thriller. The book

stalks the venomous shadow of the Soviet Union through the back alleys and hidden valleys of the world where lethal chemical and biological attacks have taken place.

This is the book which began to unravel the answers. Before it was even published rumors of its content circulated among the few individuals concerned with such strange attacks so far away — news people, adventurers, government agencies.

For the first time the elusive poison used against the H'mong in Laos was identified by name as a mycotoxin, T₂ or Trichothecene, a lethal form of grain mold which causes violent internal hemorrhaging. "It was there, in a bizarre hemorrhaging disease that plagued Mother Russia, that the investigators at last found the thread of an explanation for Laos and Afghanistan."

For many years now, when reports of the use of chemical and biological weapons reached the world, they fell on incredulous or disbelieving ears. The first attacks began in Yemen as early as 1963 when Egypt (at that time aligned with the USSR) sent planes that reportedly gassed the Yemeni village of el Kawma. In the mid-'70s, reports of gas attacks began to filter out of Laos with H'mong refugees. Attacks have since taken place in Cambodia and Afghanistan where newer,

more exotic "experiments" seem to be taking place. At the time of this writing, almost-daily attacks are occurring inside Laos and Cambodia. Most often these reports have been dismissed, for lack of evidence, as circumstantial or hearsay. The chilling thought that a new age of chemical and biological warfare *has already begun* is often too difficult to imagine or accept.

The myths and realities associated with chemical warfare as documented in **Yellow Rain** are as formidable as they are terrifying. The most startling realization, for me, was the discovery of the *extent* to which chemical weapons were used in WWI. In 1918, the last year of the war, the level of intensity increased until both sides were locked in a tragic poisonous embrace.

Toward the end "...they loosed their entire chemical arsenal. There had never been anything like it in warfare. For twelve days in March 1918, the Germans saturated with mustard gas all the areas that they did not intend to cross during the coming attack. On one day alone of the bombardment, March 9th, they used 200,000 rounds of mustard gas. The areas that they did intend to cross they drenched with asphyxiating and vomiting chemicals.

"The British chemical liaison officer, Maj. Victor Lefebure, estimated that a million gas shells were used in the preliminary barrage. The very nature of the war had changed.

"Col. Fries (the American chemical officer) requested that *50 percent* (italics mine) of American artillery shells be filled with chemicals (he was already asking for production of 4,525 tons of chemicals per week), but U.S. production simply could not meet his demands."

The senseless slaughter consumed vast stretches of the Western Front, turning them into a hellish landscape of yellow and green gas, twisted trenchlines and charred earth. Seagrave reports years later, when he made a pilgrimage to Ypres, hearing of a farmer who was recently blistered from wood impregnated long ago with the deadly chemicals.

From the fields of Ypres where it all began, to the mountains of Laos and Afghanistan where the legacy continues in a new, viral form, **Yellow Rain** is indeed "a journey through the terror of chemical warfare."

But perhaps the most disturbing fact of all is the nature of the "Bugs and Gas" establishment itself. It concerns itself with creating newer, ever more potent variations on the theme of death. Its ghoulish preoccupation with "lethality" and "effects" is even more chilling when written in the clinically dispassionate language of science.

Yellow Rain is not just recommended reading — it is required reading for those with a "need to know." This journalistic detective story promises more to come. The enigma of what to do next remains.

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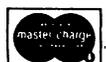
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IN REVIEW



REVOLT AT CINCINNATI. By Joseph P. Tartaro. Hawkeye Publishing Company, P.O. Box 411, Station C, Buffalo, NY 14209. 1981. Paperback, 52 pp., some illustrations. \$3.00 plus 50¢ postage and handling. Dealer discounts available. Review by Eugene A. Barron.

HISTORY deals harshly with those who forget its lessons. One of these lessons is that the leaders of an organization better heed its membership, or the members will take matters into their own hands. The other is that, given an intransigent enemy, there are only two basic approaches to a problem: accommodation (or appeasement), or a hard line of open-resistance. Both of these lessons are well-illustrated in **Revolt at Cincinnati**.

The National Rifle Association was formed in the late 19th century to coordinate the activities of target shooters at the state level, provide for an annual national match, and act as a clearinghouse of technical information. Subsequently a publication, *The American Rifleman*, was added. The association was run by a succession of retired military figures. Its leadership was almost incestuous: The president selected the nominating committee, which, in turn, nominated the directors, who were routinely ratified by the life members of the association; the directors then elected the officers of the NRA. This condition persisted for years, and, in time, the organization came to be controlled primarily by small-bore shooters.

With the passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968, the NRA had another role thrust upon it, that of defending the Second Amendment rights of its constituency from further federal and local encroachments upon gun ownership and the legal use of guns. This issue split the organization into two camps: the traditional "old guard," a minority in control of the machinery of the NRA, that was embarrassed by overt political action and willing to accommodate the antigunners to some extent; and a hard-line, rapidly-increasing majority that saw the protection of Second Amendment rights as the primary duty of the association. While the "old guard" was composed of the NRA officers and directors, the hard-liners were led primarily by publishers and writers in gun-oriented publications — one of whom is Joseph P. Tartaro, executive editor and publisher of *Gun Week*, and the author of this book.

Due to membership pressure, the Institute for Legislative Action (ILA), an independent lobbying and member-coordinating entity, was established. Totally dependent upon donations for its activities, it initially had to pay the NRA in full for office space, supplies, personnel and advertising space in *The American Rifleman*. Many antigun bills were enacted in the ILA's early days (primarily due to the institute's lack of funds), chief among them legislation in New Jersey and Washington, D.C.

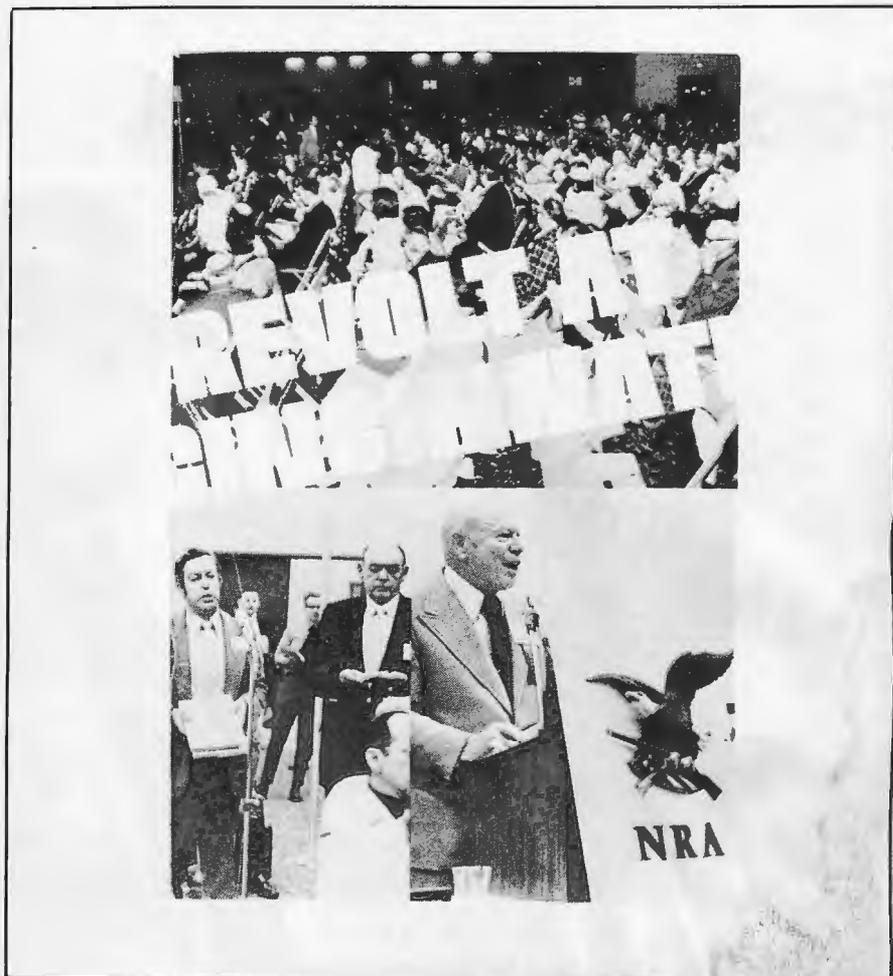
The ILA's later reputation as "the most effective lobby on Capitol Hill" was an embarrassment for the old guard, that sought the traditional low profile. At the same time, the leadership was taking the NRA in another direction. Land at Raton, N.M., was purchased for a National Shooting Center, and a three-man management committee was established. This latter group began by firing 80 people in "an economy move." A public-relations firm was hired, and its impact was substantial. Plans were made to sell NRA

headquarters in Washington, D.C., and move to Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Raton property became the National Outdoor Center. Literature promoting the center did not mention shooting sports, and approaches to big-money, tax-free foundations — traditionally antigun — did not stress gun sports.

These and other accommodations proved too much for the NRA membership, and the battle was joined, with the showdown at the annual meeting at Cincinnati in May 1977.

Tartaro's book deals with the background of the battle, the participants, the outcome and subsequent developments. Originally written as a series of articles in *Gun Week* prior to the May 1981 annual meeting, in Denver, Colo., **Revolt at Cincinnati** provides a fascinating look at the power politics of the NRA.

The membership of the NRA is divided into three groups: the small handful of the old guard, still in control of the organization through parliamentary maneuvering, that is trying to overcome the Cincinnati reforms; a larger reform group, not as well-organized or funded, fighting for membership rights; and the majority of the membership, which either is unaware of the continuing battle, or doesn't care what direction the NRA takes. It is to these last two groups that **Revolt at Cincinnati** is addressed, and I heartily recommend it to them.





FULL AUTO

The Great CIA Lake City Ammo Caper

by Peter G. Kokalis

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter G. Kokalis joined the SOF staff last year with articles on the Uzi (SOF, September '81) and AWC sound suppressors (see "Doc Dater's Deadly Devices," SOF, December '81). Last month he tested the Leatherwood SMG for SOF, and his feature article on the American Defense Preparedness Association Symposium on Small Arms and interview with Israel Galili appear on pages 33 and 28 in this issue.

Kokalis has a B.A. in political science from Northwestern University and a M.S. in geology from Arizona State University. He joined the U.S. Army in the late '50s and served in technical intelligence. Now active in retail advertising and marketing in the firearms industry, the author has been involved in the history and research of automatic weapons for more than 20 years.

When we approached him to write

the "Full Auto" column, he agreed — and spoke directly to our readers: "In this new 'Full Auto' column, you will be receiving information that I hope will not only prove interesting, but that has never before been available anywhere else in print. Your questions, both technical and legal, concerning auto weapons, are invited. Those of universal appeal will be printed in future columns, as space permits."

Write to Kokalis, care of *Soldier of Fortune*, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Next month look for his discussion of "The M85 Fiasco."

—M.L. Jones

By the first half of 1970, U.S. intervention in Cambodia had intensified to the point that on 25 April, the Nixon administration began a program of direct military assistance to the Lon Nol government. The Saigon government had, in the meantime, turned over thousands of captured AK-47s and RPDs to the Cambo-

dians. Ammunition for these weapons was of immediate concern.

The United States had been obtaining modest quantities of 7.62x39mm ComBloc ammo from the Finnish government. Soviet pressure on Finland and a rather mysterious explosion at the Lapua factory suddenly ended this source of supply.

Using information and specifications supplied by those both within and outside of the U.S. ordnance infrastructure, test runs were initiated at Frankford Arsenal. The first lots were assembled using foreign components: Lapua (Finnish Arsenal) bullets and brass formed from 6.5x54mm Norma cases. The first run using U.S. components took place at the Frankford Arsenal in September 1970. WC-type ball powder was finally selected as the most appropriate.

Upon successful completion of the Frankford tests, the entire operation was moved to the Lake City Arsenal, where more than 25 million rounds were eventually produced. A small portion was sent to Ft. Hood, Texas, and the rest overseas, only to be swallowed up in the ensuing debacle of the Vietnam War.

The very first production runs were headstamped "LC 71." However, shortly after production commenced at Lake City, the head-stamping equipment in the production line was totally bypassed (the not-so-clever assumption being that without headstampings, no one would know who was producing the ammo).

Now, the stupidity of this charade rests in the fact that only the United States, as well as a few other countries, including Canada and Israel, that utilize U.S.-made production machinery, use the Boxer primer. The Boxer primer consists of a primer cup containing the priming mixture and an integral anvil, while the primer seat in the cartridge case has but one centered flash hole.

The Berdan primer is predominant throughout the rest of the world, including all of the ComBloc nations. In this type of percussion priming, the primer is a simple cup containing the priming mixture only, the anvil being formed as a part of the cartridge case. In addition, the Berdan primer usually has two flash holes, 180 degrees apart, on either side of the anvil.

Inspection of a fired case or one in which the bullet and powder had been pulled would of course reveal the type of priming immediately.

So, who was fooled by this rather inept ruse? No one presumably, with the possible exception of U.S. cartridge collectors. As specimens began to trickle out, collectors, befuddled by the lack of headstamping, began to spread the imaginative story that the ammo must have been produced for the CIA. As only a very few are privy to the real story, the phrase stuck, and to this day, cartridge collectors refer to it as the "CIA 7.62x39mm ComBloc ammo."



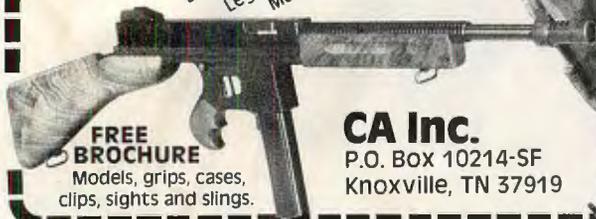
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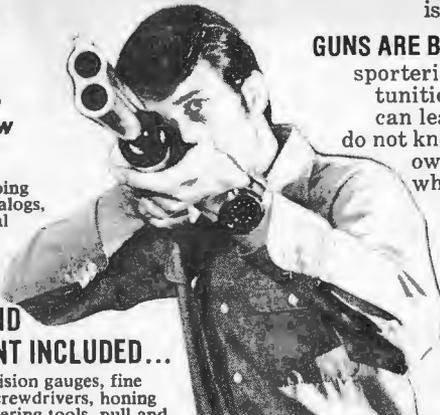
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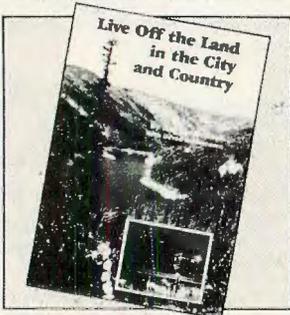
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by Vincent Joseph Guarino

The house is an ordinary middle-aged house. There are sash windows all around with catch-luck devices. One high window never closes quite right—something wrong with the hinge. In the living room are a young mother and two small children watching TV. Outside, shrubbery grows too close to the sliding glass door. A dark mutt-jonless man shape crouches in the leaves and shadows.

The house is a break-in just waiting to happen. Would your home be safe if someone tried to get in?

With a burglary happening every fifteen seconds somewhere in the United States, the odds of break-in are against homeowners, whether they live in middle-aged houses or modern apartment buildings. The odds can be beat. *Everyman's Guide to Better Home Security* helps readers determine appropriate safeguard levels—for homes, businesses, and people—as well as aids in arranging feasible preventive measures. Step-by-step sections cover lock selection, door types, alarm setups, exterior and interior lighting, special considerations for apartment living, home and business sales, insurance coverage and claims, and personal safety. Guarino gives a complete run down on the models of locks and alarm-meeting minimum standards—a boon to the confused consumer. With the security check lists provided in the extra tear-out section, readers may keep important identifying information on file. This new edition in the Paladin Press *Everyman's Guide* series is a security investment in itself. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, drawings and photos, check lists, 136 pp. ISBN 0-87364-217-1 \$7.95

WHERE THERE IS NO DOCTOR
A Village Health Care Handbook
by David Werner

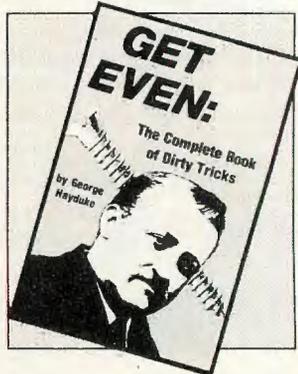
Straightforward, ultra-practical manual on comprehensive health care, prevention of illness, and self-help. *Where There Is No Doctor* is more than a book on first aid. Developed for use as a standard guide for villagers far from a doctor's care, this is the best—absolutely down-to-earth medical handbook we at Paladin have ever seen.

Myths and realities of home remedies are discussed, along with general health tips. Chapters detail symptoms of disease, medical examination of a sick person, healing without medicines, correct use of modern medicines, nutrition, first aid, and illness prevention.

Explains treatment of common problems such as dehydration, diarrhea, vomiting, headaches, colds, worms, sinusitis, VD, allergies, asthma, cholera, pneumonia, hepatitis, hernia, and convulsions. A special chapter tells how to prepare for and handle emergency childbirth. Contains hundreds of no-nonsense illustrations. Every serious survivalist must have this book—we guarantee you won't be disappointed! 6 x 9, softcover, charts and illustrations, 405 pp. ISBN 0-87364-241-4 \$19.95

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by George Hayduke

The latest word in do-it-yourself justice for everman makes the other harassment books look like a Sunday school picnic. *The Complete Book of Dirty Tricks* teaches you how to get even whether wronged by an enemy, victimized by a credit card company or just ripped off by any number of obnoxious individuals and menacing organizations. The methods range from simple pranks to sophisticated techniques of devastation. George Hayduke is a master of revenge whose wisdom will help put you on top of any situation where you formerly felt helpless. The book is brimming with anecdotes describing ingenious tactics that have been successfully employed by veteran tricksters. For entertainment purposes only! 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 190 pp. ISBN 0-87364-186-8 \$11.95

GET EVEN 2
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by George Hayduke

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"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your courteous and prompt service to me in the past." R. L. Australia

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by Pete Senich

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RANGER HANDBOOK

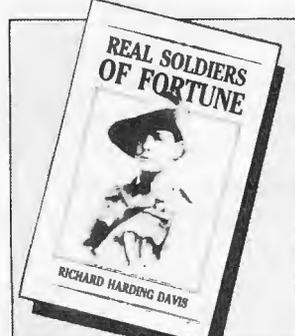
Rangers the name has struck fear in the hearts of America's foes for centuries. From Rodgers' Rangers in the French and Indian War, to the heroic cliff-scaling Rangers at Normandy through the magnificent long range patrols behind the lines in Korea, the Ranger tradition of bravery and endurance is unmatched. Compiled by the Ranger Department, Ft. Benning, Georgia, this handbook draws from bloody lessons learned from 200 years of special operations combat. Crammed with information on demolitions, first aid, boobytraps, rappelling, communications, and over 30 other crucial topics. 4 1/2 x 6, softcover illus., 213 pp. ISBN 0-87364-044-6 **\$8.00**

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This exciting hardcover volume is an exact reprint of the scarce 1906 first edition, which commands high prices—if you can find a copy. Historians, collectors, and SOFers will want to order this one today. 5 1/2 x 7 hardcover, illus., 240 pp. ISBN 0-87364-239-2 **\$12.95**



December 1968, Republic of South Vietnam. M-48 tank—"The Wild One 4"—from the 11th Armored Cavalry, 1st Platoon, heads out of the area after the detonation of a ChiCom land mine.

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by N. Mashiro, Ph.D.

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February 1945. Leatherneck from the 5th Marine Division and Doberman hunt Japanese snipers near Green Beach, Iwo Jima.

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"Life After Doomeday is by far the best of the books on the subject of retreat and survival this reviewer has read." *Soldier of Fortune magazine*

SLASH AND THRUST

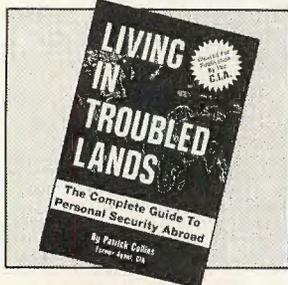
by John Sanchez

Knife fighting, and books about this deadly art, have enjoyed a great resurgence in popularity lately. However, until *Slash And Thrust*, no book ever presented a complete, totally practical knife fighter's training program. That is exactly what this book does—tells the novice knife fighter how to train himself to become an expert! The author also presents many little known, more sophisticated techniques, making this the ideal selection for novice and expert alike. Covers choosing the martial knife; test cutting; carrying methods; complete training program; guard and grip positions; slashing and thrusting; human target areas quick kill strikes; footwork; deceptive movements; and much more. Gives plans for making your own knife shoulder rigs, saving you at least \$20! Also tells how to use and throw exotic edged weapons, such as the Shuriken, Shaken, Irish Dart, Chakram, Chinese Cloth Dart, and Hand Quarrels. Illustrated with many line drawings. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 72 pp. ISBN 0-87364-188-4 **\$8.00**

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LIVING IN TROUBLED LANDS:

The Complete Guide To Personal Security Abroad by Patrick Collins

A lifesaving security guide for American professionals living and working overseas. Patrick Collins, a former CIA official, is a practical writer with a practical background. While working for the government, he helped create personal security programs for Americans going overseas as representatives of the U.S. Now the civilian worker can learn how to create his own overseas security program, from a true expert. This book is not intended for the casual overseas vacationer. Rather, it is a practical guide geared for technicians, military personnel, executives, and other professionals who must reside in countries with questionable security and swiftly changing alliances.

The author's security program is above all pragmatic, straightforward, and easy-to-implement. It does not entail huge investments for bodyguards, weapons, and armored cars. It does require self-confidence and a sound knowledge of what you will be up against. Common-sense precautions—rather than armor, guns, and chronic paranoia—are the answer, according to the author. Collins's suggestions are time-tested and proven every day in some of the most dangerous areas of the world. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 200 pp. ISBN 0-87364-205-8 **\$14.95**

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THE HOSTAGE-TAKERS

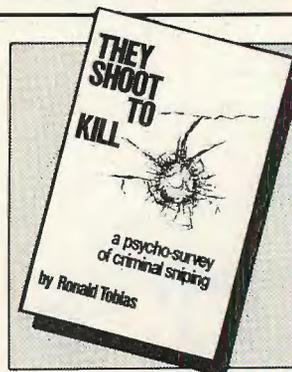
by H.H.A. Cooper

The incidence of hostage-taking, kidnappings, and penitentiary takeovers has increased dramatically in the past decade and shows no signs of abating in the '80s. Hostage-takers can cripple entire countries; the murders at Munich bear witness to power wrongly wielded. Law officers, security professionals, and governmental authorities need perspective on the problem. In *The Hostage-Takers*, H.H.A. Cooper provides that perspective from legal, psychiatric, sociological, and tactical angles. The worldwide-published author is consultant to the international Association of Chiefs of Police, and as senior associate of the Washington, D.C. IMAR Corporation he explores aspects of aviation security. Seven different types of hostage-takers are identified and analyzed—political extremists, fleeing criminals, religious fanatics, institutionalized, estranged, or mentally disturbed persons, and people who feel they have been wronged. Individual analyses allow police officers and security specialists to assess and approach each hostage-taking as the unique event it really is, saving civilian and police lives in the process. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, 100 pp. ISBN 0-87364-209-0 **\$12.00**

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Historians will recall that the famed Dutch underground armorers of WWII fabricated many silenced weapons for their behind-the-lines ops against the Nazis. If our own nation is ever invaded in the future, silenced firearms will certainly play an important role in resisting the enemy. Of course, Paladin Press unconditionally guarantees your satisfaction with this intriguing, all new book. **WARNING:** severe state and federal regulations outlaw the possession of silencers unless an appropriate license is obtained. *Home Workshop Silencers I* is for reference and historical purposes only. Be warned! 9 x 12, softcover, illus., 72 pp. ISBN 0-87364-193-0 **\$12.00**



THEY SHOOT TO KILL: a psycho-survey of criminal sniping

by Ronald Tobias

You like action! We guarantee you won't put this book down. The sniper—killing in anonymity—has been called the criminal of the decade. Here are the facts about the ones who have changed history with a bull's eye. Written with unflinching regard to detail, *They Shoot To Kill* defines the drama and devastation that one armed person can create, without warning. In-depth research and on-edge accounts take you behind the scenes of snipings both notorious and obscure. Criminologists, psychologists, law enforcement officials, mystery readers, gun lovers, and anyone who wants a *hardhitting*, absolutely engrossing story: get this one.

Included are major case histories which represent each of the different types and methods of the criminal sniper, ranging from the juvenile vandal to the psychotic mass murderer. Charles Whitman fighting to the death atop Texas Tower; David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz stalking the streets of New York City; Alain "Max" de la Toenaye hot on de Gaulle's trail—these are criminal snipers who are internationally infamous. They are examined alongside the lesser-known snipers: Atebury, Caratini, Essex, Hayes, Unruh, and others. The author is recognized as a leading authority on criminal sniping, and has advised police departments and law agencies in such cases as the crippling attack on *Hustler* publisher Larry Flynt. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 280 pp. ISBN 0-87364-207-4 **\$14.95**

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by Bill Holmes

First in a series of nontechnically written books that will enable the average man to easily fabricate his own submachine gun with a minimum of tools, equipment and materials, through building the receiver, breech block, barrel, trigger assembly, stock and pistol grip, sights and magazine. Heat treatment and finishing are also covered. This vital knowledge is a must for every concerned citizen. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, machine drawings, 144 pp. ISBN 0-87364-085-3 **\$10.00**

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by Bill Holmes

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THE ARMCHAIR MILLIONAIRE
by Frederick Hal Vice

Money may not buy happiness, but it sure beats being broke. Not many millionaires sing the blues. You too can leave the rat race behind and take the fast track to top money. *The Armchair Millionaire* is fact, not fiction, written by an ex-corporate banker who relinquished both salary and suburban amenities to start his own small business at home. His success story can be yours—with maximum return on minimum investment.

This moneymakers' manual goes far beyond pretty pep talk and financial fairy tales. Solid guidelines, practical examples, and real-life solutions set it apart from get-rich-quick quackery. None of that early-to-bed-early-to-rise folderol, either; as Vice writes, "It's not hard work, it's smart work." Flexible formulas for financial self-sufficiency are feasible for anyone's lifestyle. Dozens of case histories support the accessibility of economic independence. Discover why cottage industries all over America are alive and well—the income ideas are endless. Whether you seek some extra pocket money or a major makeover in purchasing power, *The Armchair Millionaire* is its effective encouragement. 5½ x 8½, softcover, 120 pp. ISBN 0-87364-204-X \$8.95

SPECIAL FORCES HANDBOOK

Paladin Press once again presents the long out-of-print *Special Forces Handbook*. This classic contains chapters on tactics, demolitions, air operations, weapons, communications, first aid, and survival. There are also techniques on unconventional warfare, guerrilla forces' missions, and composition of operational detachments. 4¾ x 5½, softcover, illus., over 200 pp. ISBN 0-87364-109-4 \$8.00

SILENCERS FOR HAND FIREARMS
by Siegfried F. Huebner

The first book in English by one of the world's foremost experts, Siegfried Huebner has published numerous books and articles in his native Germany, and to write this book he has drawn from extensive research at the Mauser works, Heckler and Koch, and the German Army Proving Ground to bring to you a complete and authoritative text on silencers. The text covers silencer principles, silencers in World War II, clandestine weapons, and five other vital and intriguing chapters. Over 70 full-size album pages are devoted to nearly 200 exciting photos and drawings. Konrad Schreier has technically edited the book to insure its complete accuracy. 8½ x 11, softcover, 200 illustrations, 100 pp. ISBN 0-87364-055-1 \$11.95

EVERYMAN'S GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SURVIVAL
by Deane Kogelschatz

You don't have to be rich to financially survive the coming hard times, but you will have to be prepared. Whether you have a lot or a little money, *Everyman's Guide to Financial Survival* will tell you how to use it to your advantage.

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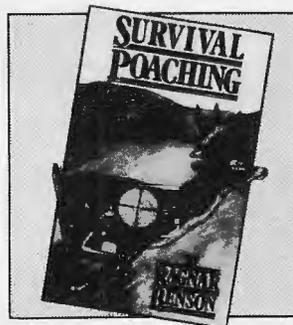
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YELLOW RAIN!

SOF Tells Senate of Communist "Final Solution" in Asia

by Jim Coyne
Photos by Susanne Messing



SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown outlines evidence of use of toxic agents in Laos during press conference held in Washington, D.C., on 10 November 1981.



SOF Associate Editor Jim Coyne testifies before Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Coyne was part of SOF's investigative team that obtained samples of toxic agents from Southeast Asia last summer.

DEADLY chemical and biological weapons are currently being used by *communist* military forces against the people of Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Solid evidence concerning these chemical and biological attacks has only recently been discovered and made public, and, based in part on chemical and biological samples obtained in Southeast Asia by *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, this evidence was presented as testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington, D.C., on 10 November 1981.

For the first time since Secretary of State Alexander Haig's brief announcement in West Berlin last September, the United States government charged publicly on 10 November — in a strongly worded State Department statement which cited new and convin-

cing proof — that chemical and biological warfare agents were and are being used in areas of Southeast and Southwest Asia, most notably in Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan. Richard Burt, Deputy Director of Politico-Military Affairs for the State Department, announced at the hearing before the committee, "We now have the smoking gun We now have four separate pieces of physical evidence" of lethal toxin attacks against the people of Laos and Cambodia. "Over the past five years, and perhaps longer, weapons outlawed by mankind, weapons successfully banned from the battlefields of the industrialized world for over five decades, have been used against unsophisticated and defenseless people, in campaigns of mounting extermination which are being conducted in Laos, Cambodia, and more recently in Afghanistan."

Burt stressed that the United States government would "keep this issue before the world community and on the international agenda for as long as we need to." Without charging them directly, Burt implicated the Soviets in the attacks by stating that the USSR is "directly involved in the use of chemical weapons," and is "advising and controlling chemical warfare in Southeast Asia."

Supporting testimony was made at the hearing by Sterling Seagrave, author of the book, *Yellow Rain*, which chronicles the systematic use of chemical and biological weapons by Soviet-supplied forces (see my review of this book on p. 14); Jane Hamilton-Merritt, the author whose early reporting for the *Reader's Digest* of gas warfare in Laos first brought public attention to attacks against the H'mong in Laos; Karen McKay, director of the Commit-

\$100,000 REWARD

FROM SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



FOR THE FIRST COMMUNIST PILOT TO DEFECT WITH INTACT SAMPLES OF LETHAL CHEMICAL AND/OR BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENTS.

Soldier of Fortune Magazine will pay \$100,000 to the first communist pilot to defect to the West from Afghanistan, Laos or Cambodia in an aircraft designed to deliver and equipped with lethal chemical and/or biological weapons.

To receive this reward, the chemical and/or biological agents must be authenticated by a laboratory sanctioned by Soldier of Fortune. Within 30 days of verification to Soldier of Fortune's satisfaction, the pilot will receive \$100,000 — in gold or any currency — from Soldier of Fortune Magazine.

This offer will expire 1 July 1982 or at such time that the United Nations admits that communist forces have employed lethal chemical and/or biological weapons against the populace of Afghanistan, Laos or Cambodia.

Soldier of Fortune Magazine is the sole judge of any dispute arising over this reward and will determine any person or persons entitled to share therein. Its decision on any point or matter connected with the reward shall be final and conclusive.

tee for a Free Afghanistan, who relayed refugee and medical reports of similar attacks against the freedom fighters in Afghanistan; and myself, correspondent and associate editor of *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, a member of the investigatory team that obtained actual chemical residue from a recent attack inside Laos.

There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that chemical and biological attacks are occurring. In the words of one State Department official, "Wishing it weren't true won't make them go away."

The alarming fact is that when encountering opposition, Soviet strategy and tactics call for routine use of such chemical and biological agents. There are Soviet troops deployed in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. There is a Soviet Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Cuba, only 90 miles from our shores. It is standard operating procedure for these units to use, not just train with, the full spectrum of chemical and biological weapons. The U.S. armed forces are, by comparison, woefully inadequate.

Today we are faced with mounting and reliable evidence indicating the use of both chemical and biological weapons against the defenseless peoples of Laos and Cambodia and the brave people of Afghanistan. Today's reality, however, is but a pale foreshadowing of the stark terror of future conflicts if something is not done immediately to stop it.

And yet, for the most part, the media

seem disinterested in the issue of whether or not chemical or biological attacks are taking place, or what the victims might be dying from. Instead, the *New York Times* headlined a recent editorial, "Too Quick On Yellow Rain," which downplayed the implications of the assembled evidence presented at the Senate hearing by the State Department, because one of the four samples that proved to have unnaturally high concentrations of the lethal T₂ toxin trichothecene was provided by *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*. "What company is the department keeping?" the editorial shrieked. This is a cheapshot which tragically ignores the central questions being raised. I can't help but wonder what the *New York Times's* editorial tone would have been if one of its intrepid reporters had stumbled upon such evidence. I dare say it would have been different. Would the State Department then be criticized in print? I think not.

Sadly, it is the people of Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan who must suffer and die while comfortable bureaucrats and journalists procrastinate over the fine points of the rules of evidence thousands of miles away.

Perhaps it is the Honorable Jim Leach (R.-Iowa) who said it best in his testimony before the committee. Leach declared: "Now that the State Department has at last faced up to the fact that bio-chemical weapons are being used, it is time to assess where we go from here. It would be my recommendation that our government devote all

necessary resources to gather and evaluate further evidence; put it before all appropriate international bodies; and take all the necessary steps to ensure that the full weight of international law and world opinion is engaged in an effort to halt this vicious new form of warfare. Further delays will lead to further deaths, and we will share the guilt if we do not do all that is possible to stop this crime against humanity."

Congressman Leach went on to say, "I have yet to hear a satisfactory answer as to why we should not immediately and forthrightly bring this issue before the UN Security Council as provided for in Article VI of the Biological Weapons Convention. Faced with the evidence that the Soviets have not only a capability but also a willingness to use mycotoxin weapons, the United States has only two realistic options. National security requires that we either upgrade significantly our own chemical arsenal or launch negotiations aimed at definitively eliminating bio-chemical instruments of warfare.

"If legitimized through production, stockpiling and use, chemical and mycotoxin weapons could all too easily become the poor man's weapon of mass destruction. Nuclear arms are beyond the financial or technical capabilities of most nations. However, countries which are unable or unwilling to produce nuclear weapons can easily produce or obtain some types of deadly bio-chemical weapons. If the Soviet Union and its surrogates get away with using such weapons with impunity, the list of other countries willing and able to do likewise will almost certainly grow."

We at *Soldier of Fortune* feel very strongly about this issue, and are convinced beyond reasonable doubt that both chemical and biological weapons are being used against the people of Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan. The list of peoples so attacked must not grow.

The consequences of inaction are as great as they are terrible. The "restraints" of the 1925 Geneva Protocols or the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention are meaningless if and when parties choose to disregard the provisions without censure.

It is because world opinion has been reluctant to accept evidence so far that *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* recently offered a \$100,000 reward to the first communist pilot to defect to the West in an aircraft with intact samples of Soviet chemical or biological warfare agents. Perhaps only then will the rest of the world finally realize the truth.



AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL VIETNAM VETERANS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS

VIETNAM

UNLESS something is done to stop it, in early spring this year ground will be broken for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in its present form, is neither a suitable monument to those who died in Vietnam, nor to those who survived the war. If allowed to proceed as planned, construction will begin on a 400-foot-long V-shaped slash in the dirt, sunk 10 feet below ground level and faced with black, imported marble. The names of the 57,697 American servicemen who died will be down there, etched in black on the mausoleum-like walls of the monument. If so, it will be the only monument in Washington below ground. It will be the only monument in Washington faced entirely in black. It will not include an American flag in the design. It will be the final, ironic victory against the war in Vietnam.

Indeed, the accepted current design makes no mention of the 2.5 million Americans who returned home. The Congressional bill authorizing the memorial specifically states that the monument be built "in honor of the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War," but instead, it lists only the names of those who died.

Memorials are meant to remind and inspire the living. It is the living who must remember the sacrifices of those who died. If there is honor in this monument it is too subtle for me. Would they have us believe that this misconceived memorial is meant to honor the sacrifice of my friends, my generation, this nation? This gash in the earth, out of sight of even a close passer-by? Hidden in sorrow below the grass? Is this what we deserve from a grateful nation? A shallow slit trench for the dead?

The war in Vietnam was the most powerful and cathartic experience many of us ever had in our lives. I regret nothing. This architectural apology does not represent Vietnam veterans or those who died in Vietnam.

Negative reaction to the present design continues to grow. Jim Webb, author of *Fields of Fire* and a former Marine in Vietnam, has withdrawn his name from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Sponsors Committee: "I'm really upset. I could not walk by that monument and feel I helped build it.

"We are invading for all time the privacy of those who perished by publishing their names on this memorial, and this should not be done except in the most affirmative sense of honor and

The Gash in the Ground

The New York Times

Remembering Vietnam

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1981

Commemorating war dead in art is a time as old as memory and mourning, so it was inevitable that there would be a competition for a Vietnam War Memorial in Washington. The winning design, by Maya Ying Lin, a Yale architecture student, is for a slow, angled wall inscribed with names, to be built between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The horizontal lines, the simple geometry and the somber stone create a mood that is sober and reverent.

The Vietnam War is not easy to memorialize, even the competition was greeted by some who also questioned the wall and the placement in liberty to create a controversial site for some time to come. But the controversy reflects more than bitterness left over from the war. It is hard to be much tougher to build a memorial. The wall of names on bronze tablets or the master of the fallen warrior bidding a flag appear predictably in the village green. Amusement parks and modern military parks (unconquerable traffic islands). Forgetful heroes dot the nation's parks. The Vietnam design, the heroes sit or stand or occasionally ride a horse, but the message remains the same: a noble cause well served.

Nowadays, though, patriotism is a complicated matter. Ideas about heroism, or art, for that matter, are no longer what they were before Vietnam. And there is certainly no consensus yet about what cause might have been served by the Vietnam War.

But perhaps that is why the V-shaped black granite lines covering grass with the sloping walls make the message clearer even in having and appropriate image of dignity and solemnity. It reserves the only point above the war in which people may agree: that those who died should be remembered.

Several years ago, we brought home a group of American fighting men who had obeyed their country's call and fought as bravely and as well as any Americans in our history. They were greeted by no parades, no bands, no waving of the flag they had so nobly served. There has been no thank you for their sacrifice, no effort to honor and give pride to the families of more than 57,000 young men who gave their lives in that faraway war. There has been little or no recognition of the gratitude we owe the more than 300,000 men who suffered wounds in that war.

PRESIDENT REAGAN
February 24, 1981

The Washington Star

The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1981

By the design will memorialize the dead in the most powerful and cathartic experience many of us ever had in our lives. I regret nothing. This architectural apology does not represent Vietnam veterans or those who died in Vietnam.

There is pride as well as a recognition of the memorial. The men who fought bravely in Vietnam are remembered by having their names on a wall, on a nation or an individual in the past.

The memorial is a statement, great but clear, and it is something beyond monuments. It is a statement that the Vietnam War was a war that the American people should not forget. It is a statement that the Vietnam War was a war that the American people should not forget. It is a statement that the Vietnam War was a war that the American people should not forget.

The Washington Post

STYLE

Of Heart & Mind

recognition. Architectural understatement is hardly called for when we are dealing with the heroic and honorable loss of life."

The prestigious Marine Corps League announced recently, "The design which has been selected is inappropriate. It represents an insult to those it is intended to memorialize. The veterans of Vietnam deserve better. The Marine Corps League hereby withdraws its support of the memorial in the design now proposed."

It is important that this matter of a memorial be considered very carefully,

for it is history itself in the making. Has anyone polled the opinions of the Vietnam veterans this memorial is meant to honor? Was there a Vietnam veteran on the design-selection committee?

No. Instead, we are told there were no Vietnam veterans qualified enough to judge!

Again, it seems it is not the veteran of Vietnam who is qualified, but rather those who experienced the war from television. Tom Carhart, an articulate, outspoken critic of the present Vietnam Veterans Memorial design, himself a veteran of Vietnam where he served as a

MEMORIAL

by Robert K. Brown

THEY SERVED WITH HONOR

DESIGN COMPETITION: WINNING DESIGNER'S STATEMENT

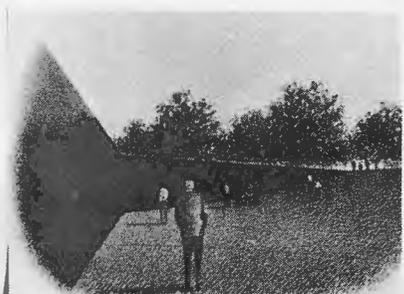
Walking through this park, the memorial appears as a rift in the earth—a long, polished black stone wall, emerging from and receding into the earth. Approaching the memorial, the ground slopes gently downward and the low walls emerging on either side, growing out of the earth, extend and converge at a point below and ahead. Walking into the grassy area contained by the walls of the memorial one can barely make out the carved names upon the memorial walls. These names, seemingly infinite in number, convey the sense of overwhelming numbers, while uniting those individuals into a whole. For this memorial is meant not as a monument to the individual, but rather as a memorial to the men and women who died during the war, as a whole.

The memorial is composed not as an unchanging monument, but as a moving composition, to be understood as we move into and out of it; the passage itself is gradual, the descent to the origin slow, but it is at the origin that the meaning of this memorial is to be fully understood. At the intersection of these walls, on the right side, at the wall's top, is carved the date of the first death. It is followed by the names of those who have died in the war, in chronological order. These names continue on this wall, appearing to recede into the earth at the wall's end. The names resume on the left wall, as the wall emerges from the earth, back to the origin, where the date of the last death is carved, at the bottom of this wall. Thus the war's beginning and end meet; the war is "complete," creating full circles, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side, and contained within the earth itself. As we turn to leave, we see these walls stretching into the distance, directing us to the Washington Monument, to the left, and the Lincoln Memorial, to the right, thus bringing the Vietnam memorial into historical context. We the living are brought to a concrete realization of these deaths.

Brought to a sharp awareness of such a loss, it is up to each individual to resolve or come to terms with this loss. For death is in the end a personal and private matter and the area contained within this memorial is a quiet place, meant for personal reflection and private re-lookings. The thick granite walls, each 200 feet long and 10 feet below the ground at their lowest point (gradually ascending toward ground level) effectively act as a sound barrier, yet are of such a height and length so as not to appear threatening or enclosing. The actual area is wide and shallow, allowing for a sense of privacy, and the sunlight from the memorial's southern exposure along with the grassy park surrounding and within its walls, contribute to the serenity of the area. Thus this memorial is for those who have died, and for us to remember them.

The memorial's origin is located approximately at the center of this site; its legs each extending 200 feet toward the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. The walls, contained on one side by the earth, are 10 feet below the ground at their point of origin, gradually lessening in height, until they finally recede totally into the earth at their ends. The walls are to be made of a hard, polished black granite, with the names to be carved in a simple Trajan letter, ¼ inch high, allowing nine inches in length for each name. The memorial's construction involves recontouring the area within the wall's boundaries so as to provide for an easily accessible descent, but as much of the site as possible should be left untouched (including trees). The area should remain a park for all to enjoy.

—Maya Ying Lin



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

DESIGN COMPETITION: JURY'S STATEMENT

The jury for the Vietnam Memorial Design Competition finds entry number 1026 the finest and most appropriate of the 1,481 entries submitted. We recommend to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. that it be built on the proposed site.

Of all the proposals submitted, this most clearly meets the spirit and formal requirements of the program. It is contemplative and reflective. It is subtly harmonious with its site, and yet free for visitors from the noise and traffic of the surrounding city. Its open nature will encourage access in all occasions, at all hours, without barriers. Its siting and materials are simple and forthright.

This memorial with its wall of names, becomes a place of quiet reflection, and a tribute to those who served their nation in difficult times. All who come here can find it a place of healing. This will be a quiet memorial, one that achieves an excellent relationship with both the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, and relates the visitor to them. It is uniquely horizontal, entering the earth rather than piercing the sky.

This is very much a memorial of our own times, one that could not have been achieved in another time or place. The designer has created an eloquent place where the simple meaning of earth, sky and remembered names contain messages for all who will know this place.

Piero Belluschi
Grady Clay
Garrett Eckbo
Richard H. Hunt
Conventina Nivola

James Rouse
Hideo Sasaki
Harry M. Wescoe
Paul Spretneg, professional adviser



platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division, has said of the monument, "I don't care about artistic perceptions; I don't care about the rationalizations for the selection of this design. One needs no artistic education to see this design for what it is, a black trench with black walls, the universal color of death and mourning. It doesn't even provide access for those disabled Vietnam veterans who are condemned to spend the rest of their lives in a wheelchair. Does America truly believe we should feel honored by this black pit?" I think not.

A few cosmetic alterations in the de-

sign are all that's called for here. If the color were changed from funerary black to white, the traditional symbol of honorable national service, and the walls brought above ground into the light of day, and an American flag were installed, along with an inscription using the word "honor" instead of "remember," then all the problems would fade away. It is within the power of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund to make these changes, but its members refuse to do so.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial should be in beautiful harmony, rather

than stark contrast, with the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. There should be no question of its suitability. There should be no question of free and easy access for the handicapped. There should not be constant danger of someone falling into the monument. There should be no need for drainage pumps below the water table, as are necessary now.

A memorial to Vietnam veterans, and to those who made the supreme sacrifice with their lives in Vietnam, must be built. There is no question that a memorial to Vietnam veterans is deserved and overdue. But, if you agree that the present design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is unacceptable, and would like to see an appropriate memorial to those who served, please *do* something about it before it is too late.

Vietnam veterans must not sit idly by while a panel, which included anti-war protestors, decrees what memorial might best "honor us." We need no more cruel jokes at our expense.

Prior to the selection of this inappropriate design, *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine contributed \$1,000 to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and provided our mailing list to the VVMF for its use in the solicitation of funds. We were delighted, at the time, when it was reported back to us that the *Soldier of Fortune* mailing list solicited the greatest single response of any such list. We were not surprised. We know the quality of individual who reads this magazine, and we are well-aware and proud that Vietnam veterans make up a significant percentage of our readers. But, now it's our turn.

If you feel, as we do, that this design is inappropriate to the memory of those who died in Vietnam, and those who returned home, then we ask that you let your voice be heard. It is time for Vietnam veterans to stand up again and say, "No, we will not allow this to happen. It is *our* memorial. It shall be done with honor, or not at all."

WRITE NOW! Address your opinions on postcards, telegrams, or letters to:

RONALD REAGAN
President of the United States
and Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

For additional impact, write your elected representatives in Washington, D.C. The addresses may be obtained from your local newspaper.

Do it today!

Sincerely,
Robert K. Brown
Editor and Publisher



WEAPONS WIZARD



Israel Galili fires new Mini Uzi, caliber 9mm Parabellum. Weapon uses regular Uzi magazines; note compensator cuts at end of muzzle to reduce climb as cyclic rate is 1250 rpm.

The American Defense Preparedness Association's Second International Symposium on Small Arms provided SOF's Military Small Arms Editor, Peter G. Kokalis, with the unique opportunity to obtain an exclusive interview with one of the most brilliant and fascinating individuals in modern weapons technology, Israel Galili. Already justifiably well-known for his design of the Galil assault rifle, Galili was on the scene to promote his newly developed Mini Uzi.

SOF: In what country were you born? Were you involved with the conflict with the British?

GALILI: I was born in Israel in the Galilee area. I served in the underground Haganah forces. I used to do

weapon modifications and repairs for the Haganah.

SOF: What specific types of small arms did you encounter?

GALILI: At first most of the weapons we used were from the British: Canadian and British Lee-Enfields, Stens, Brens, Lewis guns, Webley pistols and mostly British ammunition. We also used the Vickers water-cooled machine gun and we adapted Bren tripods to accept the German MG-34 and MG-42 machine guns. We even had a few Austrian Schwarzlose machine guns of WWI vintage.

SOF: At what point in time did the Israeli government begin to produce its own armaments?

GALILI: In May of 1948 when the British left Israel, we came out from under-

ground and began to set up the factories and work shops which became Israeli Military Industries (IMI). But, of course, we had been making some of our own weapons in the underground since 1943. We also both reloaded and manufactured 9mm Parabellum and .303 British ammunition in the Kibbutzim far from the British camps. Also quite a bit of 7.92mm ammo for the thousands of Mauser 98k rifles we had obtained.

SOF: How long have you been associated with IMI?

GALILI: Since May 1948. However, I was, of course, in the underground for many years prior to that time. I enlisted in the British army at the age of 17 under orders of the Haganah to steal weapons from the British. I was in

ED ISRAEL GALILI

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



Israel Galili fires Galil assault rifle in caliber 7.62mm NATO, 20-rd. magazine, produced by IMI for export only; note wooden forearm, which is cooler to use in desert environments, and folded bipod, which serves also as wire cutter and bottle opener.

a special group that constructed boxes which were hidden under wagons and contained the weapons and ammunition that we smuggled from Egypt to Israel. While on leave or vacation, we would drop the boxes in the orange groves near the border, from railway cars to the waiting Haganah forces.

SOF: What is your opinion of the Bren LMG?

GALILI: An excellent weapon; however, faulted somewhat by use of the .303 British cartridge, which is rimmed, and thus difficult to load into the magazines. The Czech ZB 26, which we also used, from which the Bren originated, was in 7.92mm caliber with a rimless round. It and the postwar L4 Brens, in 7.62mm NATO, are both more suitable for loading of magazines

under the stress of combat.

SOF: What is your specific function now at IMI?

GALILI: I am a weapons designer and I am also in charge of all the test ranges from caliber .22 up to 106mm recoilless rifle and the 105mm tank gun. I fire all the barrels and weapons before they are sent to the army or for export.

In each small arm, we fire both proof ammunition and one full magazine of ball ammo. After passing our tests, the weapons are turned over to the army, where they must again pass the random-sample testing of the army inspectors. From 3,000 Galil rifles or Uzi submachine guns, 120 of each will be disassembled, the parts mixed, and then reassembled and fired to make

certain that all the parts are interchangeable. If even one problem is encountered, then the entire lot will be rejected. However, to date, this has never happened.

Also, one weapon from each lot is used for an endurance test. In the Galil rifle, 6,000 rounds must be fired without any parts breakage and 10,000 rounds in the Uzi submachine gun.

SOF: How has IMI achieved such prominence in the field of military small arms in less than 40 years, in the face of competition from companies like Steyr, Beretta and FN, some of which have been on the scene for hundreds of years?

GALILI: The secret is our country has been at war all during this period of time. We have a big army, a good ar-

my. We work very closely with our army. Let us say that we make a sample — a prototype — we send it to the army and they use it in the desert, in sand, in dust, in water and in high humidity, all without cleaning the gun. Then after two or three months, the prototype is returned to us with a report with comments such as: "The trigger is too short," "the barrel heats up too quickly," "the body is a little bit too wide," "the forearm heats up after firing only 200 to 250 rounds," and so on.

Based upon these user comments, we make modifications and send the prototype back to the army for further testing and more invaluable feedback under field conditions. In this manner we are able to introduce human engineering into the weapon system, and at the same time develop and perfect an efficient design within an extremely short time frame. In addition, since we

copters or armored personnel carriers and had the butt hit the ground or the side of the Bren-gun carrier, it caused the bolt to strip a round from the magazine and fire. Many soldiers and officers were lost because of that. The grip safety and the ratchet safety on the top cover offer the degree of protection we feel is required with blowback submachine guns. I am totally opposed to the use of tape on the grip safety, although I have often seen it done.

SOF: And now we have the new Mini Uzi, a weapon which has created a few shock waves in the military small-arms industry. I understand that you are personally directly responsible for its development. Why was it developed and in what significant ways does it differ from the other Uzi submachine gun?

GALILI: Our interest in a small subcompact submachine gun began with

rounds per minute.

SOF: How does the combination of light weight and increased cyclic rate affect controllability of the weapon?

GALILI: The standard Uzi submachine gun is a strong weapon and heavier than others of its type. I took the first five prototypes of the Mini Uzi and fired 16,000 rounds in each to test controllability and functioning. About 100 factories manufacture 9mm Parabellum ammunition. The ability to function properly with many different makes of ammo is an important consideration.

The design and angle of the bullet guide into the chamber is the critical factor in designing a gun which will feed all kinds of ammunition in the same caliber. In the first prototypes the weapon jumped up and a little bit to the right. I designed the muzzle cuts to compensate for this and also angled



are still at war with the enemy, we often work day and night, like soldiers, to develop weapons in only three to six months.

SOF: I have seen 40-round Uzi magazines and yet the Israeli army now uses a 32-round magazine. Were there problems retaining proper spring tension in the larger-capacity magazine such as those experienced in the 40-round Beretta submachine-gun magazine?

GALILI: No, it was done only to save ammunition — for economic considerations only.

SOF: The Uzi submachine gun incorporates the somewhat debatable feature of a grip safety. What is your personal opinion on this?

GALILI: In the Haganah we used many different types of submachine guns. Many young men were killed because of blowback submachine guns: When they jumped from heli-

the increase of infiltrators into our country and with the rise of PLO terrorism throughout the world. Since we manufacture 9mm Parabellum ourselves, we felt this was a required design specification instead of a smaller caliber such as the .380 ACP. Also we wished to retain the regular Uzi magazine.

I was given only a short time frame in which to operate. I started with the regular Uzi. I made the frame shorter, the cover shorter, the bolt lighter and shorter, and the barrel shorter. Forty-five percent of the Mini Uzi's parts are interchangeable with the big Uzi. Countries buying the new Mini Uzi already have a built-in inventory of spare parts if they have been using the regular Uzi. Our paratroops and commandos asked for a small weapon with a high rate of fire, designed specifically for their use. These military specifications called for a cyclic rate of 1,200

With a shortened barrel, but otherwise unchanged, the basic Galil becomes the SAR (Short Auto Rifle) and assumes the SMG role.

the cuts 10 degrees to the front to prevent back blast from reaching the shooter. Also the ejection is a little to the front and to the right. The ejection of the Galil rifle is also to the front and 30 degrees upward.

SOF: How popular has the wooden-stocked Uzi been among the Israeli troops? While not as compact, wooden-stocked submachine guns seem to offer a better firing platform.

GALILI: Yes, you are correct and the first Uzis were sent to the army with wooden stocks with no complaint. However, an interesting story then evolved. The German and Dutch ar-

mies tested the Uzi and stated that they liked our submachine gun, but that it was a little too long for them as they wished to use it in armored vehicles. So I designed the folding stock in about eight months and we prepared to export them in this configuration.

And then, Israeli officers, visiting the plant, saw the new folding-stock version and immediately asked why it was not delivered to them in this way. And so it is with every army. If you first deliver it to them they will tell you, "It's too weak; it's too short," and so on. But if they see others with it, then they want it also. In my opinion, the best way to get something adopted is to first make it for export and then your own people will run after it.

SOF: What is the current status of the regular Uzi in the Israeli army today?

tinually. After the Six-Day War in 1967 I went into the field to interview the army and IMI representatives who had fought alongside of the army in the war. I asked which weapon was the best in the desert fighting that had just passed.

Armed with this information, we decided that we would have to design our own rifle, using the comments and criticisms made by those in the desert. I saw many young men lying dead next to jammed weapons, no ejection, no firing, bolts stuck midway. It was sad to see this, but it gave us the push required to start with the development of an assault rifle.

I can tell you in truth that you can see in our rifle some parts of the AK-47. So why? Every soldier we saw in the desert threw out his FAL or Lee-Enfield and picked up AK-47s from the enemy dead.

cartridge. Because of the higher pressures of the 5.56mm round, we had to use better steel than that used in the AK-47.

However, we did not use a bolt-with-barrel-extension system. We have found that guns with barrel extensions produce cook-offs very quickly. So in the Galil, the bolt lugs are in the back behind the frame. The cartridge remains cooler and that's why we have never experienced cook-off problems with the Galil, even under the most severe full-automatic conditions. Which is why, from the Galil you can make a light machine gun.

SOF: I have noticed that the Galil's folding stock more than vaguely resembles that of the para FAL. Which came first?

GALILI: We don't know who took from whom. For instance, that handguard on the new FNC carbine is actually



GALILI: As we produce more and more of the Galil SAR (short auto rifle), the Uzi will become second line, issued to police, truck drivers and women. With the stock folded, the Galil SAR is no larger than the Uzi and is effective out to ranges of 500 meters, combined with a far more powerful caliber, the 5.56mm NATO. It is anticipated that the Mini Uzi will be issued for special operations only.

SOF: And now, let's move on to the subject of the Galil, which has been highly touted as one of the finest assault rifles in the world today. As the weapon carries your name you obviously were largely responsible for its design and development. What can you tell us about the history of the Galil's development?

GALILI: Our country is 60-percent desert and we have had a lot of trouble with automatic weapons, even the FN FAL. Dust and sand plague us con-

tinually. They said to us, "This is the tiger of the desert." I took two Kalashnikov rifles and fired 30,000 rounds through them in a desert environment to make certain this was the design we would move forward with. We compared the Kalashnikovs with the M16 and rifles from several other countries. After we developed the Galil we even had some Stoners for comparison purposes. We found that the AK-47 was the best rifle.

So — it is no secret — we took six or seven parts from the Kalashnikov trigger mechanism. As the caliber was different, numerous things had to be changed. The piston was altered slightly and the gas hole is smaller. The gas vent in the AK-47 is 4.2mm and in the Galil it's only 1.8mm. The gas pressure is of course far greater in the 5.56mm NATO cartridge than in the 7.62 x39mm ComBloc round. In other words we took the Kalashnikov system and modified it for the 5.56mm NATO

Galil SAR with stock folded and 35-round magazine.

that of the Galil SAR. We have a good relationship with FN and there is a frequent exchange of information. As to the folding stocks, while they externally resemble each other, they are not the same. Theirs is made from aluminum, ours from steel. It is a different casting system. We feel that ours is stronger and more comfortable; also, it has no catches — you can open or close the butt without pressing any buttons or latches. The FN people are excellent designers, but sometimes when something is already in production, it is difficult to stop in midstream to make modifications.

SOF: Why do some models of the Galil have wooden forearms in this age of plastic?

GALILI: A handguard from wood is cooler than one made from plastic. Wood is certainly more expensive to use than plastic; however, our army operates under severe desert conditions. In the desert, with temperatures of 95 to 100 degrees F, the weapon and ammunition get quite hot, and after you fire two magazines, then you've had it and the weapon becomes uncomfortable to hold. Which is why the heavy squad-automatic version of the Galil has a wooden handguard. We feel we can get away with using a plastic forearm on the Galil SAR, because it is usually not subjected to sustained full-auto fire.

SOF: Why does the Galil's wooden forearm have such a square shape?

GALILI: To keep the hand away from the barrel and to store the folded bipod, which as you know, in the Galil is also a wire cutter. Also, when the bipod is folded, its feet act as a chute to guide the insertion of magazines during night operations. Finally, I made the bipod catch in the rear a little bit sharper so that it can also serve as a bottle opener for our soldiers. Because you know the soldiers open their beer bottles with the magazine lips and spoil the magazines. Really it's not funny, they spoil the magazines and for this reason I also put a bottle opener in the butt of the Mini Uzi.

SOF: Isn't this just another example of the impact user feedback has on your designs?

GALILI: Yes, I send samples of the weapons to units both in the desert and in the north operating under winter conditions. I tell them to drop the weapon in the snow and operate it for four or six months without cleaning. Every week I receive reports back on the phone, such as "we experienced icing in the bore, but after firing a ballistic round we were able to fire live ammunition without problems." We also found out that under severe cold-weather conditions the trigger spring was too weak, so we put in a stronger trigger spring.

The use of constant user feedback allows us to develop our weapon systems in a short period of time. And, you know, every designer in every factory in the world has a collection — it's no secret — of hundreds of machine guns, rifles and submachine guns to study. Everyone wants to be the first on the market place with his products, so he thinks, "I will take the firing pin from the FN," let's say, or he will take the trigger from the Sako, or he will use the *extractor* from the Mannlicher-Carcano, or the barrel size from the M16. For example, take the excellent FN MAG machine gun; if you compare it with the German MG-42, you will see that 40 percent of the FN MAG came from the MG-42. But this is the way it is today.

Today's designers are not inventors. The inventors were Browning, Maxim, Goryunov, Webley and Hotchkiss. They worked 12 or 14 years on an idea. Now we are all just designers, using the principles developed by the early fathers of small arms. Which is not to say that designing a modern weapon system is so easy. Remember that the cooks in different army camps start out with the same rations, but some produce good results and some do not, as any soldier can tell you.

SOF: Several months ago Israeli commandos, operating in the Lebanon area, were observed in television scenes using M16A1 carbines instead of the Galil SARs. Can you explain this?

GALILI: We are exporting thousands of rifles and our troops are still satisfied with the short M16 — you must understand that we are producing only about 2,500 rifles a month. We cannot there-



Galil SAR (Short Auto Rifle), caliber 5.56mm NATO.

fore change over all at once. It takes time to do so. The commandos in the Lebanon area are still waiting for delivery of the Galil SAR. If you drive throughout Israel today you will see that about 70 percent of the soldiers are carrying the Galil. We must export some 50 percent of our production abroad — quite simply we need the money.

SOF: Why did you decide to produce the Galil in caliber 7.62mm NATO?

GALILI: This is not for our army. It is for export only. There are still many countries that are set up to produce 7.62mm NATO ammo and they do not yet want to change calibers. It has the full-automatic feature, but uses only a 20-round magazine, while the standard Galil rifle uses 35- and 50-round magazines in the 5.56mm caliber. The Israeli army does not want an assault rifle in 7.62mm NATO caliber.

SOF: The Galil uses metal magazines in all capacities. The Steyr AUG as you know utilizes a plastic magazine. Would you comment on this?

GALILI: I'll tell you. All Europe is green and grassy. No dust. No sand. Plastic magazines and brass-cased am-

mo are just not compatible in a desert environment. The sand particles act like carborundum and you will encounter continual problems when filling the magazines. The Americans developed plastic magazines many years ago, yet their army still does not use them. I loaded three plastic magazines and stored them for 12 years. Because of the pressure of the compressed spring, both sides of these magazines bulged significantly outward.

SOF: Do you feel that the trend toward the smaller calibers in assault rifles throughout the entire world will continue?

GALILI: Yes, it certainly will. I travel quite a bit, and with the increase in terrorism throughout the world, I have observed that everyone is looking more and more at smaller, more compact weapon systems. Calibers like the 5.56mm NATO offer many very real

advantages over the 7.62mm NATO round. They are so much lighter in weight, and every bit as effective at normal combat ranges. We know this from actual experience against our enemies.

IMI products are distributed in the United States by Action Arms, Ltd. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 9573, Philadelphia, PA 19124). Their marketing director, Mitch Kalter, has informed SOF that semi-auto versions of the new Mini Uzi and the Galil, in both 5.56mm NATO and 7.62mm NATO, should be available sometime this summer. Full-auto versions of these weapons will be available only to law-enforcement departments and Class-3 dealers by ATF regulations. Watch for detailed tests and evaluations of these weapons in future issues of SOF.





EXCLUSIVE:

Heckler & Koch's Revolutionary G-11 Caseless Gun Highlights ADPA's International Symposium on Small Arms

**Text & Photos by
Peter G. Kokalis**

EXCLUSIVE: SOF Observes Revolutionary New H&K Caseless Gun. Watching the Heckler & Koch G-11 caseless gun being fired is an experience like no other. Totally unorthodox in appearance, with an exterior seemingly composed entirely of plastic, it is a Buck Rogers Ray Gun of the first order. The scope tube (which features a 1X optical sight) and the scope mount itself seem to be integral with, and part of, the receiver molding. They also serve as the carrying handle. The completely in-line stock, the absence of protrusions, and the overall ultrastreamlined configuration

at first almost offend the senses. "Surely," I caught myself saying, "this cannot be a real assault rifle."

The moment it is actually fired, the brain is jarred by another startling, yet quite obvious observation: There is no ejection port! No cases fly outward from either side of the weapon! It is, after all, what they said it was — a caseless gun!

Apparent recoil in both the semi-auto and full-auto modes was nil. The only visual movement was that of the magazine as it slammed back and forth, feeding rounds into the system. The magazine, which holds 50 in-line

RIGHT: Hughes EX-34 Chain Gun, caliber 7.62mm NATO. Cyclic rate of 570 rpm, smallest member of Chain Gun family. Ejects fired cases forward (overboard). Long bolt-dwell time minimizes gas buildup for vehicular installations.



BELOW: George F. Curtis, manager, Advanced Development Engineering for Maremont Corp. and designer of new M60 lightweight assault machine gun, caliber 7.62mm NATO. MG weighs only 18.5 lbs.; bipod mounted to receiver instead of barrel; ambidextrous safety; foregrip for improved controllability; adjustable front sight; double sear-notch for safety; winter trigger guard, and gun can be cocked after feed cover is closed.



Soviet PK medium machine gun, caliber 7.62x54mm Russian Rimmed. Design features derived from AK-47, Goryunov Sg 43, Czech VZ52 LMG, and Degtyarev RPD. Weapon weighs about 19.8 pounds. Gas-operated with cyclic rate of about 650 rpm. Excellent, sturdy weapon.



Karl Walter fires Steyr AUG assault rifle, caliber 5.56mm NATO.



FN factory representative fires FNC carbine, caliber 5.56mm NATO in full-auto mode. Weapon has just been dug up after having been buried in ground for four hours: flawless operation.

caseless cartridges, is as bizarre in location as the remainder of the weapon is in appearance. It rests as a horizontal bar atop the barrel and extends rearward from the muzzle all the way back to the receiver. The magazine is inserted and detached up forward, the contention being that it is safer to insert it in the direction of fire. The magazine can be loaded one cartridge at a time, or by use of 25-round loading clips. An indicator at the top of the magazine identifies the quantity of ammunition which remains.

Four separate rifles were used in the demonstration conducted by H&K reps. Two were dark gray in color and two were olive drab. The significance of this was not revealed. However, they were probably steps along the

path toward lighter versions. The latest variant weighs in at 9.9 pounds with 100 rounds of ammunition. No malfunctions of any type were observed during the entire firing sequence, which consisted of approximately 300 rounds. The firing sequence ranged from single rounds, through three-shot bursts, and finally, in one instance, to a rather well-controlled firing of an entire magazine of 50 rounds. The man-sized silhouette targets were set up from 50 meters out to about 150 meters. Well-placed hits were consistently made at all ranges in all the firing modes.

At the briefing given by Michael W. Iten, H&K's military sales rep, we learned that the weapon, which is caliber 4.7x21mm, utilizes a rotating

breech (somewhat reminiscent of the principle used in the 16th-century Cookson repeating flintlock). A cylinder, approximately 2 to 2.5 inches in diameter and about one inch in width, contains the partially rectangular-shaped chamber, and rotates 90 degrees out of and in to alignment with the barrel. Gas pressure is used to tilt this cylinder upward into the loading position. A round is then stripped from the magazine, bullet down and primer up, into the chamber. The cylinder, which rotates perpendicular to the barrel axis, is then turned forward and clockwise into alignment with the barrel and the firing pin, which is to the rear of the cylinder. During the firing sequence, the magazine, cylinder and barrel recoil together, which partially explains the lack of observed recoil. The hand guard encloses the recoiling barrel assembly.

The rifle fires multiple three-shot bursts while actually in recoil. The full-auto mode is in reality a series of three-shot bursts. The cyclic rate is quite high, possibly in excess of 1,000 rpm, and is made possible by the extremely short bolt travel. The polygonally rifled barrel has a gain twist, which means that the twist increases toward the muzzle end (1:6 inch at the muzzle). This is somewhat peculiar, as gain-twist barrels have not been successfully used much since the advent of conical bullets. The ammunition has a muzzle velocity of about 3,100 fps and of course the primer and propellant are totally consumed. The latest ammunition uses a propellant with a cook-off point that is 100 degrees higher than that of standard nitrocellulose powders (solving a problem which has plagued this weapon since its inception).

The entire system appears to be quite dirt-sensitive and must be sealed against all the elements — as evidenced by the rubber boot which surrounds the trigger mechanism. Debris entering the magazine opening under field conditions will undoubtedly induce functioning problems. The G-11 can be fitted with both a bipod and bayonet.

— P.G.K.



ABOVE: Capt. James Kettrick of USA Foreign Science & Technology Center fires AK-74, caliber 5.45mm ComBloc. Note absence of perceptible muzzle climb and groove on laminated buttstock, function of which is unknown at this time.



LEFT: Stock folds over to left side of receiver on AK-74S.



ABOVE: Walther MPL submachine gun with Larand sound suppressor — extremely effective.

RIGHT: Beretta 92S, caliber 9mm Parabellum, fitted with high sights and Larand suppressor.



IMAGINE being able to see and examine just about every new and significant development in Western and ComBloc military small arms in one live-firing demonstration. The recent ADPA (American Defense Preparedness Association) Second International Symposium on Small Arms at Ft. Benning, Ga., gave just that.

Coordinated by Col. Paul H. Scordas (USA, Ret.), ADPA's director of weapons technology, the symposium

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MARINES READY TO STOP WW III

SOF Aboard the U S S "BELLEAU WOOD"

Text & Photos by Marv Wolf

A full moon beams ghostly light on the ruffled seas. Off the port bow a low, irregular shape is visible, darker than the surrounding sea and sky, distant but distinct. A flare bursts above the shape, revealing it as an island. Then another, and another. For 15 minutes a succession of parachute flares ride down on their invisible canopies, each burning itself out in the darkness, to be replaced by yet another at a higher altitude.

On the other side of the island a small force of Marines has arrived by helicopter. They seize the high ground near their LZ, dig in and wait.

A few hours earlier, a much smaller force — four or five Marines in wet suits — was put into the darkened sea from a Marine Ut-1, along with a rubber boat and their gear. The flares and the landing are a diversion, and while the enemy is occupied, the recon unit slips onto Green Beach. They will be there for only a few minutes: as long as it takes to obtain soil samples from the small beach tucked between menacing cliffs, have a look around for obstacles and minefields, and launch their rubber boat back through the surf. Exercise Bell Volcano has begun.



The exercise is a warm-up for the sailors and Marines of an amphibious task group centered on the USS *Belleau Wood*, LHA-3 — one of five amphibious assault ships (LHAs: Landing Vehicle, Assault) that provide the Navy and the nation with a new way to deliver a Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) to a trouble spot. The *Belleau Wood* is named for a decisive Marine Corps victory in France during WWI, and she is equipped with enough combat-ready Marines to start — or stop — WWII just as decisively.

The exercise I'm here to observe takes place on the Hawaiian isle of Kahoolawe, an uninhabitable chunk of barren red volcanic soil and scrub that used to be a penal colony. There's very little water on the island and, except for occasional military visitors, the only residents are goats descended from the few that Captain Cook deposited there in the late 18th century. The island is in plain view of the watering holes and \$100-a-night hotels of the royal-city-turned-tourist-trap called Lahaina, on the lovely island of Maui.

The proprietors of those hotels and bars would love to see the Navy give up this unlovely hunk of rock cliffs because, every now and then, when the atmospheric conditions are just right, the sound of exploding bombs and naval gunfire carries to the hokey hotel *Iuau*, and the tourists wonder what all the racket is. And somewhere, almost as certainly as fat cats own multiple bank accounts, there are some real-estate developers

with sheaves of plans to bring in fresh water and build condos on Kahoolawe. But it isn't going to happen, because this is the only spot in the entire Pacific where the services can practice live fire, close air support, amphibious landings and vertical envelopment all in one spot on U.S. soil.

And that is why the Navy and Marines have invited me aboard the *Belleau Wood*: to watch and learn about how the Corps, which holds the patent on amphibious undertakings, goes about storming beaches.

Getting There's Different

It turns out that the landward aspect of amphibious warfare isn't much different from what it was in WWII: A bunch of seasick Marines, after being tossed about for a couple of hours in small boats or LVTs (Landing Vehicle, Tracked) — what Marine grunts will call, nomenclature be damned, an amtrac — hit the beach. Then they scramble out of their lightly armored track and fight their way up and in. Usually they are covered by naval gunfire and close air support and quickly joined by tanks brought ashore by a landing ship tank (LST) or by smaller landing craft, either of which can drive right up on the beach and roll its tanks over the bow (or in some older LSTs, right through it). Then it's up to this combined-arms team to slug it out with the enemy, push 'em back and secure the beach long enough to bring in more infantry and armor and some self-propelled field artillery before moving out. In other words, once the Marines storm ashore, things are pretty much the way they were at Iwo Jima, Tarawa and Saipan.

But what has changed is *how* the Marines get to where they're going, and that is why I was aboard the *Belleau Wood*. She's quite a ship — at 39,300 tons and 820 feet stem to stern — bigger than a WWII *Essex*-class aircraft carrier. And in many ways, potentially much more of a fighting ship. The *Belleau Wood*, like all five *Tarawa*-class ships, can carry an assortment of aircraft — as many as 42 CH-46 Sea Knight Helicopters, or 28 CH-53 Sea Stallions, or some combination of both. Or some lesser number of these models along with UH-1s, Cobra gunships, even Harriers — the Marine Corps' vertical take off, landing (VTOL) attack fighter.

Theoretically, a couple of dozen Harriers on an LHA would have more firepower and range capabilities than the piston-driven attack force launched from WWII carriers.

But today, the *Belleau Wood* is outfitted for amphibious warfare with a mix of CH-46s, CH-53s, Hueys and Cobras. The Cobras, flown by Marines, are part of the air support for the MAU, but one Navy airdale told me that tests were underway at China Lake Naval Air Station (NAS) to see if the fast, maneuverable chopper could be fitted with Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, which would give the ship and the amphibious unit ashore their own deadly defense against such high-performance enemy aircraft as the MiG series.

The real business of the ship is to get Marine assault forces to the beach as safely and comfortably as possible. Compared to assault ships of previous eras, the LHA is a floating palace: totally air-conditioned, with somewhat-cramped quarters for more than 1,900 Marines and their heavy equipment.

For the typical MAU grunt, that means a company-size troop compartment with four racks to a stack, an individual locker for personal possessions and another shared with squad buddies for other gear. It's far from plush, but more than adequate. Marine noncoms and officers share tiny staterooms with two to four racks each, and at least the semblance of privacy. It's a Navy ship, Marine mission or not, and the enlisted sailors live more spaciously than their grunt counterparts, with three racks per stack and more storage space.

Although the three-day exercise was conducted within sight of land — one of the Hawaiian isles was always somewhere on the horizon — living on a ship, any ship, can be compared with being on the moon: There is a sense of isolation, most contacts with the outside world are cut off and a man has only his buddies to talk to.

On a ship the size of the *Belleau Wood*, the wide assortment of tasks demands that every man aboard be part of a highly specialized team that lives and works together but seldom has much to do with the other teams. The Navy lads rarely even speak to the Marines and, within each service, further separation of duties leads to further isolation. The flight-deck crew, for example, is part Marine — they provide the airframe mechanics — and part Navy, and is

comprised of fueling teams, crash crews and landing chiefs, to name a few. But the crews rarely speak to each other because there is no need. So, on a ship with nearly 3,000 men, each sailor or Marine knows only a handful of his shipmates.

But this isolation works to increase combat readiness — up to a point. “Once you put out to sea, you have to start thinking about your business out here,” says Dick Carver, the miniboss, or second-in-command, of the air operation. “So you put all that home stuff behind you, and you keep your mind out at sea and on the job. It’s much safer for everybody.”

And safety is an important matter, even in peacetime. With dozens of helicopters coming and going on the flight deck, one misstep could



LEFT: Signal Man on USS *Belleau Wood* reads light-flash messages from LCU *Liberty Bell* after “boat within boat” was launched from mother ship. Light-signal communication avoids tie-ups on regular radio frequencies. **BELOW:** Crash crew aboard USS *Belleau Wood* in fireproof suits stands by for every landing on deck. These men will pull crew out of burning aircraft. **BOTTOM:** CH-6 Sea Knights with folded rotors on deck of USS *Belleau Wood*.



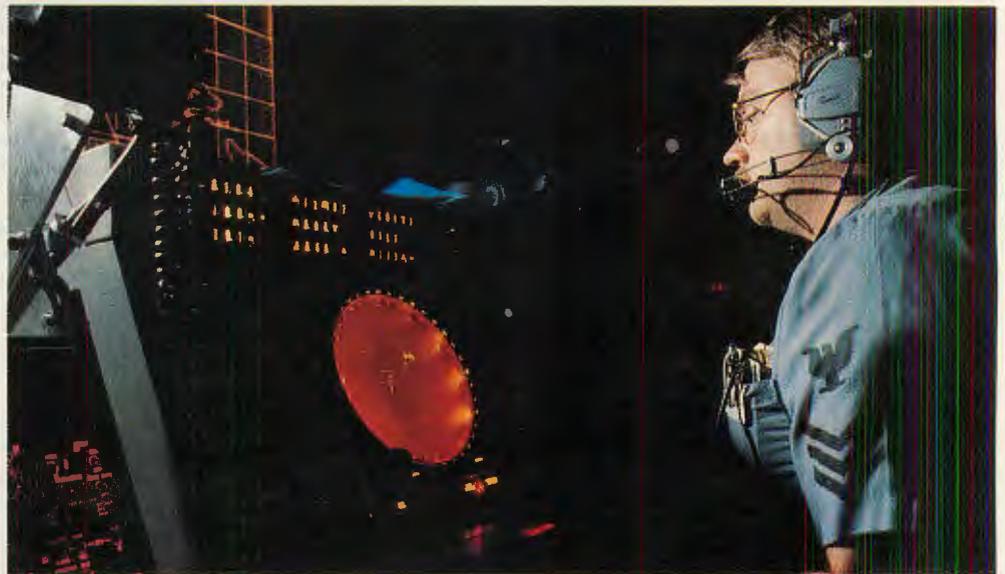
get someone killed. This is one of the reasons why members of the flight-deck crew wear color-coded sweatshirts which instantly indicate what each man's job is.

The purple gang is the refueling crew: men who crouch below the whirring blades with thick black hoses connected to jet-fuel tanks, and refuel the big birds in minutes — the engines never shutting down because it takes too long to restart and warm up.

The yellow jackets are bosses: the men who, with hand and arm signals, guide the aircraft down safely onto a flight deck that is not only moving forward at speeds up to 20 knots but also pitching sideways, and up and down. It looks a lot easier than it is. Upon landing, Marines in green dash out, chock the wheels and firmly attach tiedowns. Crash crews in bright red or highly reflective silver asbestos suits stand by just in case.

Medics, both doctors and corpsmen, wear white. Heavy-equipment

RIGHT: Manual plotting board — with graffiti — on USS *Belleau Wood*. Using special phosphorescent crayons, board backs up combat-information computer in case of malfunction. **BELOW:** OS1 Steve Nylander operates computer system linked to ship's radar system in USS *Belleau Wood* Combat Information Center. Red screen is not radar but cathode-ray-tube computer display. Computer communicates digital information from aircraft and other ships to USS *Belleau Wood*.



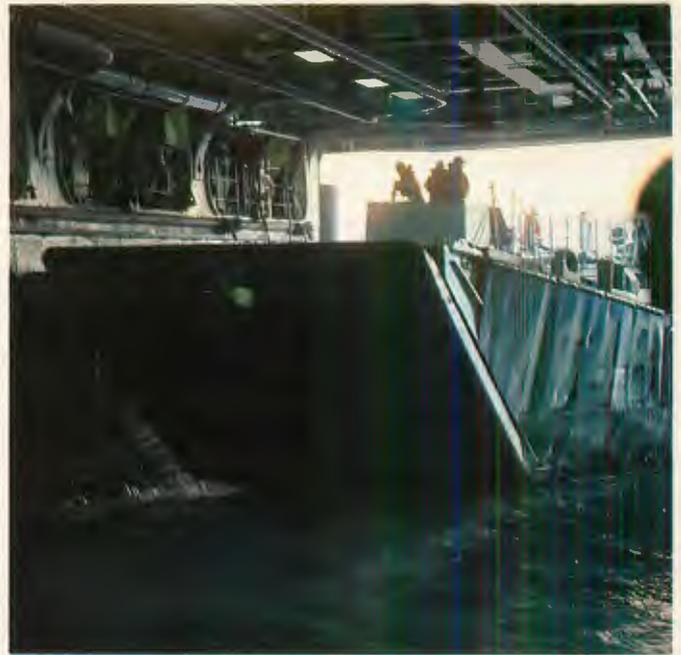
USS BELLEAU WOOD AT A GLANCE

Length: 820 feet
 Beam: 106 feet (flight deck: 118)
 Height: Mast to keel, 221 feet
 Draft: 26 feet
 Speed: 24 knots
 Range: 10,000 miles at 20 knots
 Troops: 1,903 (includes 172 officers), Complement: 904 (includes 54 officers)
 Armament: 5-inch 54-cal MK-45 gun mounts (3)
 20mm cannon (6)
 Basic point missile systems (2)
 Aircraft: Depending on mission, up to 28 CH-53 or up to 42 CH-46
 Other aircraft, including UH-1E, Cobra or AV-8A Harrier VTOL, may be carried.
 Fire Control: MK-86 gunfire-control system (1)
 MK-15 missile-fire-control system (2)
 SPG-60 weapons-control radar (1)
 SPG-9A weapons-control radar (1)

operators — cranes and tractors — wear brown. I stuck out like a sore thumb in my light-blue sweatsuit — but everyone on the deck knew I was there and kept an eye out for me while I moved around and took photos.

As a grim reminder of how critical safety precautions are: A Marine crew chief was killed the day before I came aboard. He fell out of the rear hatch of a CH-46 as the chopper headed in for a landing at Kaneohe Marine Air Station (MAS). While the cause of the accident was still being investigated, his

shipmates and fellow Marines held a memorial service on one of the *Belleau Wood's* two huge hangar decks. Two days later, another CH-46 crew chief died when his chopper keeled over after landing. The chopper hadn't been shut down, and the crew chief, tethered to the craft by his communications cable, couldn't get far enough away from the flying blades. They took his body from the scene in several bags, big and little.



ABOVE: LCU *Liberty Bell* — “boat-within-boat” — backing out of USS *Belleau Wood*. **LEFT:** LCU *Liberty Bell* after deployment from USS *Belleau Wood*. Cargo: three M60 tanks.

Perhaps it was with accidents like these in mind that landing-boat chiefs were briefed in the *Belleau Wood's* wardroom before the exercise: "Remember," warned the ship's operations officer, "if you have to go to the assistance of an LVT — they'll either communicate by radio or use distress flags — don't tie up to the track while attempting to effect your rescue. They've been known to fill up and sink and take an LCM with them, because when they're full of water they weigh something like 40 tons." A half-dozen Navy chiefs nodded. They'd heard it all before, but it's the sort of thing that can't be said too often.

Putting nearly 2,000 Marines into the water, along with their fighting gear and the back-up supplies and transport required to sustain an

amphibious campaign, is a logistical problem of unbelievable complexity and magnitude. In the bad old days, the Marines went over the side on cargo nets, and the heavy gear and supplies were manhandled by working parties. With landing craft bobbing up and down in the swells, more than one Marine failed to time his final jump just right and wound up crushed between the boat and the ship. And cargo, moved by muscle aided by booms, blocks, tackles and a few power winches, always stood a good chance of taking the deep six.

The *Belleau Wood* has been designed to put an end to such hassles. Marines are either airlifted to their assault LZ, or taken in by landing boat or an LVT. The Marines that board choppers assemble in combat units in a huge space beneath the front end of the flight deck, called the acclimatization room. From there they

LEFT: MSgt. Jim Paynter was author's escort aboard USS *Belleau Wood*. CH-46 Sea Knight in background and five-inch remote-control radar-operated gun. BELOW: Navy corpsmen practice evacuation of wounded from CH-46 on deck of USS *Belleau Wood*. BOTTOM: Two amphibious assault vehicles lashed together ready to hit the beach with load of trucks and jeeps. LCMs are attached for easier access and deployment from mother ship.



move around the ship on a catwalk, located a half-deck below the flight deck, until they reach designated ladders. When the choppers are ready for them, they can board their birds in seconds.

Those that go in on surface craft — chiefly armor crews, field artillery, TOW (Tactical, Optical, Wire-guided missiles) crews and truck drivers — board their boats safe and dry. The *Belleau Wood* has an enormous well deck, capable of holding up to four LCUs (see sidebar, p. 67) or several smaller LCMs. These boats are stored high and dry within the after part of the ship, below the hangar decks, and they travel combat-loaded with tanks, trucks or other vehicles. Marines can board them quickly and safely without the slightest chance of getting wet. When "Away All Boats" is ordered, the

huge door at the stern is raised by electric motors, sea water is allowed to enter and, by pumping ballast below the well deck, the rear of the ship is lowered several feet. Then the boats simply drive out into the open sea. If required, the entire operation can be conducted with the ship at nearly full speed.

To hold the ammo, rations, water and POL (Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants) that the expeditionary force requires on the beach, the *Belleau Wood* is fitted with 10 cargo holds. Cargo is moved from them to the well deck on conveyor belts. It's then loaded aboard the landing craft with one of several diesel-powered hoists. These ingenious contraptions are manned by Navy operators. Each hoist travels on a rail

system that runs the length of the well deck, and is equipped with its own small diesel engine and a device to lift or lower cargo. Trucks of all descriptions — from jeeps to big 18-wheeler POL tankers — are stored in a big garage just forward of the well deck.

The Marines invented helicopter assaults, which they term vertical envelopment, and deployed small units by helicopter as early as the Korean War. The Army helped develop air assault, first with the 11th Air Assault Division (which became the 1st Air Cav when it deployed to Vietnam in 1965), and later with other units. But like other techniques, there is both an Army and a Marine version.

The Marine way with a ship like the *Belleau Wood* means using large and medium choppers — the CH-46 and CH-53 — to carry two squads or more at a time from the

deck of the ship. This permits an entire infantry company, with heavy-weapon reinforcement, to be landed using only seven or eight birds. Since the CH-53s can wing along at better than 200 knots, it also permits launching a surprise heliborne assault from quite a distance out at sea.

"We used to think in terms of two units by boat and one by air," explains Lt. Col. Gar Thierry, CO of HMM-165, the Marine chopper unit attached to the *Belleau Wood*. "Now it's the other way around — we'll send two by air and one by sea. Having a ship equipped with a well deck makes it much easier to launch boats, and having air capability on the same ship makes it easy to coordinate the two. But we're still learning how to use this kind of a ship. Having all this capability in one place is a new challenge to overcome," he adds.

What he means is that since the ship can do so many different things, deciding what to do first and where takes planning. The helicopters, or Harriers, if there are any aboard, must be launched into the wind if possible, which means turning the ship that way. They must also be launched far enough from their targets so that some degree of surprise is attained — it wouldn't do to have the enemy able to see the launch, either visually or on radar. And it wouldn't do to have the ship in so close to the target that land-based missiles or guns could reach it.

The boats, on the other hand, have a considerably different journey. Once launched, they will marshal by circling until all elements of an assault wave have *joined up*. Then, because they are slow and vulnerable to shore batteries, they must make the trip to the beach as quickly and directly as possible —

THE PEPSI GENERATION

I came aboard the ship by chopper from Pearl Harbor and, after several hours of horizontal and vertical journeys down ladders and through passageways with watertight doors every few yards, I had learned enough about my surroundings to find my room on my own, but only by retracing my steps in a sometimes-circuitous route.

On an early-evening jaunt, I came up a ladderwell that was surrounded by Marine grunts under a senior NCO. They were stripped to the waist, sweating profusely — not the sergeant, of course — in the almost airless close quarters. They were moving hundreds of cases of soft drinks, one case at a time, to the deck below. The Pepsi® Generation. I nodded to the sergeant, he nodded to me, and I thought, "Well, there has to be some way of moving that stuff around inside the ship, and maybe that's the best one." I thought no more about it until almost midnight.

I was a little claustrophobic in the tiny stateroom I shared with a Navy commander, so just before

going to sleep I thought I'd get some fresh air, look at the horizon and settle my pitching senses. I went up to the catwalk surrounding the flight deck and strolled the length of the ship, then ducked back inside to cut across the width of the ship. I found myself in the same ladderwell as earlier, with the same group of Marines, but a different NCO. But this time the grunts were moving the cases of soda-pop *up* from the deck they'd moved it down to earlier — or so it seemed. I asked the sergeant if this was so, and he nodded.

"Well, how come?," I wanted to know. "Did somebody foul up, put the stuff on the wrong deck?"

"Somebody fouled up all right," grinned the NCO. "And maybe after they carry a couple of hundred cases back up I'll let them carry them all down again. Then they might remember who works for who in this here Marine Corps," he drawled. "And if they forget again, we've got thousands of cases on this here ship, and we're gonna be at sea a long, long time."

It made me very tired, and I went immediately to my room and racked out.

— M.W.



it's asking a lot to put an exhausted, seasick Marine on a strange beach and ask him to fight like hell for several hours.

So the requirements for the air and surface elements are quite different. Balancing them requires not only knowledge but experience. That's what exercises like Bell Volcano are about — they train the grunts, plus the layers of planners and coordinators that the task of putting 2,000 combat-loaded gyrenes ashore on a hostile island or coast will always entail.

The nerve center of the *Belleau Wood* is the Combat Information Center (CIC). Here, in a large compartment beneath the bridge on the ship's conning island, are computers, radar screens and a vast amount of sophisticated communications equipment. Data from the several radars, along with data beamed in from other ships, aircraft hundreds of miles away and even earth satellites, is presented on screens to operators. Decisions are made about targets — ships, planes, submarines — and identification, friend or foe (IFF), is determined.

Most U.S. and allied aircraft carry transponders that, on command from equipment on the *Belleau Wood* and other similarly equipped vessels, not

only tells the operators if it's friendly, but also what kind of plane it is and from what unit. From this data targets are assigned either to gunners or missile operators on the LHA, to those on other vessels in their task group, and to aircraft.

To help older ships in the amphibious force which have a lot of firepower but no high-speed computer system, the *Belleau Wood's* CIC spews out data on a one-way microwave link. The information is encrypted before transmission by a computer cyphering device, then decoded at the other end. Receiving CICs manually plot target data on large illuminated boards and take the appropriate action to engage or disregard

targets. Lacking windows, the CIC is dark but for the multicolored lights that shine from the different computer consoles and radar screens.

Also in the CIC are voice and data links to helicopters, landing craft and other ships. All of these command and control signals are backed up with blinker light signals and flag hoists. If all communications fail, the various elements of the amphibious task force are on their own, but each has the assault plan,



which includes a timetable. The CIC is well-protected by the ship's firepower, but if it is knocked out, a radar operator told me, "We're in a world of hurt. The CIC is too extensive and too costly to duplicate elsewhere in the ship."

The *Belleau Wood* sports two surface-to-air missile launchers and three five-inch .54-cal. automatic-load naval guns. Their fire is controlled from the bridge — for permission to load or fire — and from a room near the CIC for actual firing. The ship's radar directs the gunfire and gunners, many decks distant from their pieces, control the machinery by remote consoles. The guns may be used either against aircraft or as support for landing parties.

The ship's ultimate weapon is its MAU. "Shipboard duty gives us the opportunity to give our men more training than they can get in a shore environment," explains a platoon leader from Kilo Company, Third Marine Regiment. "At sea, we can fire all of our small arms from the flight deck. We put bright orange plastic garbage bags over the side at regular intervals, then we sink them for practice. About the only thing we can't fire on the ship are our 60mm mortars. But we can practice by loading with full field gear and weapons and

doing 10 laps of the flight deck — that's three miles. Since we have the men the entire time they're out here, they always leave the ship in better physical condition than when they came aboard because there's no place to hide. We make things for them to do — not make-work, but training. These guys are not only ready to fight by the time they've been on the ship a couple of months, they're *looking to fight.*"

Amphibious operations are tough, dirty jobs. Casualties are usually high if there is any enemy opposition at all. To prepare for this eventuality, the *Belleau Wood* has extensive hospital facilities aboard and, even in peacetime, carries three doctors, one of whom is a flight surgeon. The facilities

include operating rooms, X-ray room, isolation ward, intensive care ward, labs and a pharmacy. And just off the flight deck is a large room all but filled with refrigerated drawers: the morgue.

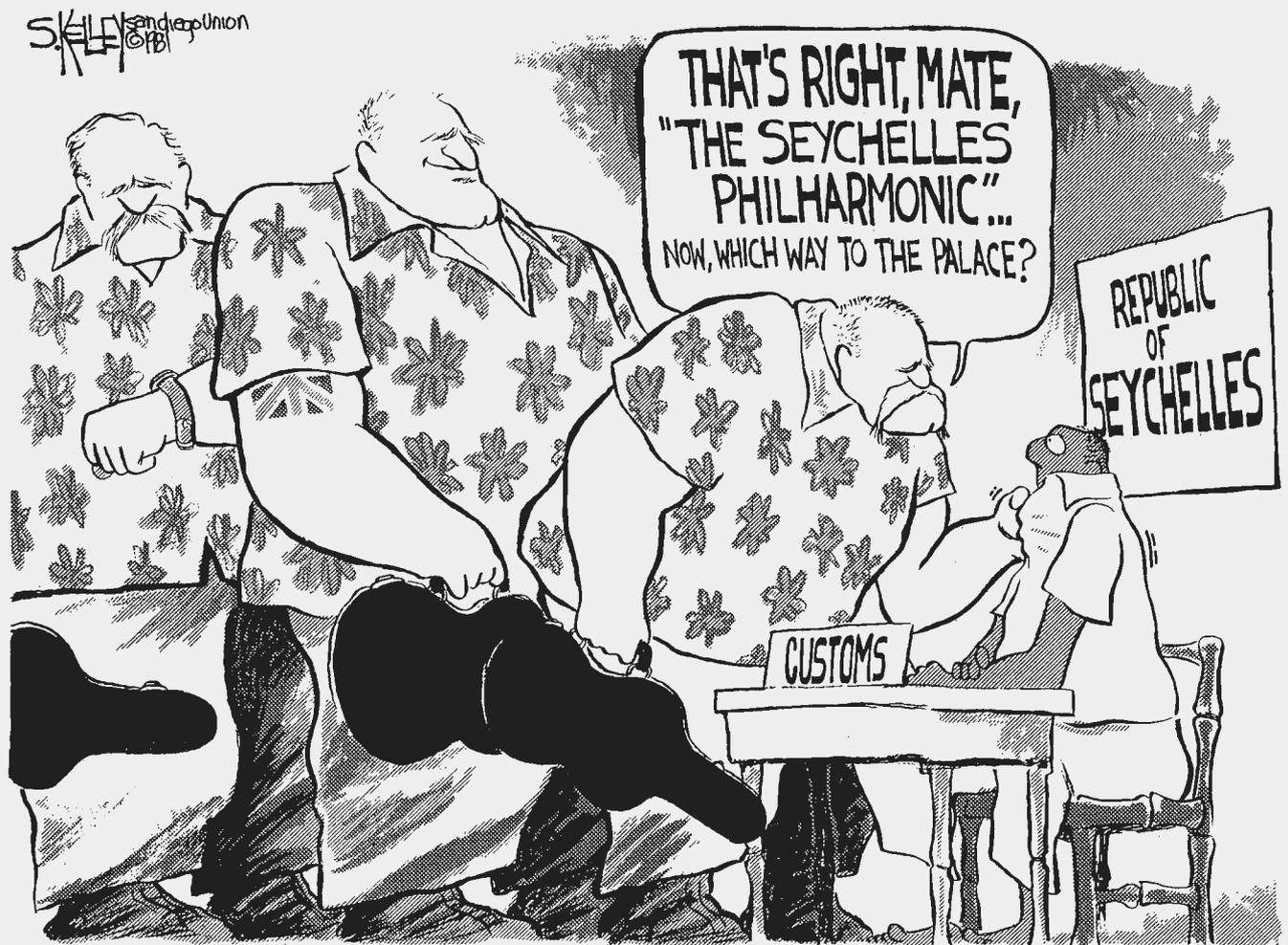
Throughout the night, the Marines have held their positions near LZ Hawk against repeated probes by "enemy" forces on Kahoolawe. Now it is early morning, and the *Belleau Wood* is turned into the wind about a dozen miles offshore. A thin line of boats moves toward a tiny cove ringed by sheer cliffs — Green Beach. The giant helicopters, loaded with combat-ready Marines, are launched one by one. They circle for altitude, form up and head around the island for their

Continued on page 66

SEYCHELLES FIASCO

"MAD" MIKE HOARE'S MERCS MUCK UP

by Jim Graves



SOF Managing Editor Jim Graves was in South Africa on 25 November 1981 when the unsuccessful mercenary raid on the Seychelles Islands occurred. Here is his report from Johannesburg:

FOR three hours the 65 passengers aboard Air India Flight 224 sat in sweltering heat and darkness relieved only by muzzle flashes and streaks of tracer fire outside the plane. In the darkness, the thump and ensuing WHAM! of exploding mortars became all the more frightening.

Their waiting ended when Air India Captain Umesh Saxema returned, accompanied by an older man, with a gray Van Dyke beard, who was addressed as

Tom. While Tom watched at the hatch, a second man checked off a list as other men boarded and moved down the dark aisles to empty seats.

Roll call completed, Saxema and Tom entered the cockpit and the Boeing 707 engines were started. Minutes later, Flight 224 taxied onto the runway and lifted off from Mahe Airport, Seychelles.

As the plane lifted off the tarmac, the new passengers spontaneously began clapping their hands to the refrain of "Louis the Min-day Train." Although the predominantly Indian and black passengers didn't understand it, the rhythm means the end of a stint of military service to South African servicemen.

Once they were airborne, the cabin lights came on. The 65 original passengers saw that almost all of the men who had boarded at Mahe were armed with AKM rifles and handguns. Some were stowing their weapons in overhead luggage racks. As Flight 224, Salisbury to Bombay via the Seychelles, turned back toward Johannesburg, South Africa, the new passengers told the old that they had hijacked the plane to end an aborted coup of the Seychelles Islands.

The original passengers sat stunned, but as the plane gained altitude the hijackers reassured them that they would not harm them, and some of the mercs began to help the stewardesses serve drinks. One passenger was shocked to

hear a merc ask an attendant if he could pay for his drink with American dollars or travelers' checks. When the Coca Cola® ran out, the mercs broke out their own supply and shared it.

The passengers of Flight 224 had become part of one of the most startling, perplexing mercenary raids ever attempted. The raid was led by "Tom Pretorius," the alias of the legendary "Mad" Mike Hoare, commander of 5 Commando in the Congo until 1966, one of the world's most famous mercenaries — and until now perhaps the most successful.

The 44 men who boarded Flight 224 at Mahe were part of a force of approximately 100 who had been hired for \$1,000 each up front plus \$10,000 per man to be paid after the successful overthrow of the government of President Albert Rene of the Seychelles — or the "Island of Love," as its countrymen call it — an island chain in the Indian Ocean east of southern Africa.

Rene and 60 men, trained and armed by Tanzania, took over the Seychelles in a coup in 1977, ousting James Manchum. It is assumed that Manchum, living in exile in London, had an interest in the coup attempt and that he may have obtained financial assistance from his friend Adnan Khashoggi — a Saudi Arabian arms dealer, one of the world's richest men, and an extensive land holder in the Seychelles.

Whoever put up the money certainly put up enough. Within 48 hours after the raid's end, reporter Aida Parker of Johannesburg's *The Citizen* obtained documents which detailed the financial arrangements and the recommendations of the man who carried out the pre-raid reconnaissance.

Parker's documents indicate that the use of a 200-man force was recommended. In actuality, 47 flew from Johannesburg to Mahe on 25 November, and a group of unknown size — originally reported to number between 35 and 50, but now, according to Seychelles authorities, to total eight — entered the island as tourists before that date.

The planner had budgeted the total cost of the operation at \$5 million. Cost breakdown was \$3 million for the 200-man raiding party; \$75,000 for preliminary expenses, including travel by the commanding officer and executive officer; \$120,000 for a sailboat and special equipment; \$45,000 for the advance party, including house rental; \$250,000 for car rental, air fares and other travel expenses; \$200,000 for arms; \$10,000 for communications equipment; \$10,000 for medical expenses; and \$1,290,000 for "contingent liability" (indemnity against death, hospitalization and compensation for wounds).

The recon documents obtained by Parker also outlined the strength of the Seychelles People's Liberation Army: Its



180-man infantry unit was expected to be the primary opposition. Its members were armed with AK-47 rifles and 18 RPG-7s. They also had 12 Russian-made recce-type vehicles with two light machine guns each mounted on top but no co-axial gun, six Bofors anti-aircraft guns, six medium AA machine guns and six Mini Mokes carrying 75mm recoilless rifles. In addition, a 200-man militia was armed with Mauser rifles.

The man who undertook the recon reported that the island's defense seemed

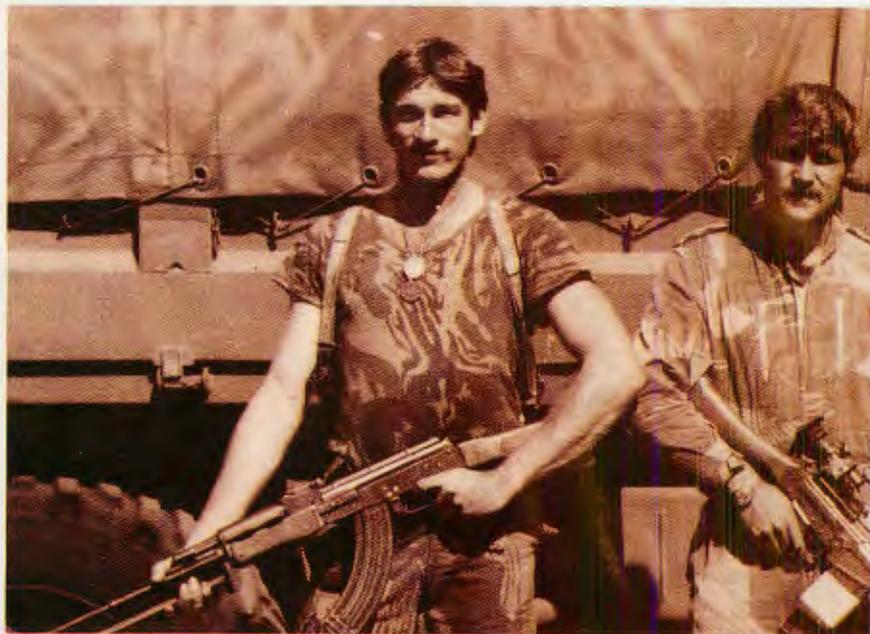
"Mad" Mike Hoare (right), leader of Seychelles raid, prior to attack on Stanleyville in the Congo in Nov. 1964. Hoare commanded the 5 Commando which rescued 2,000 Europeans from communist rebels. Photo: Wide World

to concentrate on repelling either sea-borne or airborne conventional attacks, and that luggage arriving at Mahe Airport on commercial flights was not searched.

The plan that apparently was adopted involved from 100 to 200 men in a three-stage operation: 1, upwards of 50 men without weapons to travel via commercial flight before 25 November; 2, a second group of 50 men to fly in on 25 November, posing as a rugby team, with their weapons hidden in false-bottomed

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To date, Barry Francis Gribbon is the only American positively identified as a member of Mad Mike's strike force. Gribbon served as lance corporal with the Recce Troop, Support Commando 1st Bn. Rhodesian Light Infantry in the late '70s. He carries 7.62 RPK LMG with 40-round magazine.



RIGHT: After training, 1st Airborne jump-school students prepare to board DC-3. Big George James looks apprehensively at ground before stepping into "perfectly good airplane." Photo: Don Stuber
 CENTER: 1st Airborne Capt. Rick Buckley checks parachute of Roxanne Peters, wife of SOF Contributing Editor Dr. John Peters, prior to her first jump. Photo: Marv Wolf
 LOWER LEFT: 1st Airborne Lt. Col. J.R. Lee instructs movie-actor Jan Michael Vincent in proper parachute cut-away technique. Photo: Billy Tinney
 LOWER RIGHT: After long day of training and jumping in Arizona desert, 1st Airborne staff and students unwind by pushing bus through dry wash. Photo: Billy Tinney



On 16 September 1981, 1900, the training cadre of the Louisiana 1st Airborne Division landed at Scottsdale Municipal Airport. The DC-3 was loaded down with 20 men and 50 parachutes plus training equipment. They made it to the Radisson Scottsdale Inn and checked into the SOF convention.

Training began early in the morning, and 280 attentive students looked on as the 1st Airborne conducted "classroom" instruction on the hotel's lawn. They explained what a parachute was, what it did, and what it would do to you if you didn't listen up.

Chartered buses took the jump-school students to the Sky-High Pioneer Parachute Club's DZ northeast of town where hands-on training began with PLFs and malfunction procedures. A problem arose: The FAA folks came out to the DZ

and grounded the Dakota. Seems there was something wrong with the tail assembly. No jumping today. Training continued, and the next day the rented DC-3 with Louisiana State University's Tiger stripes on it was deemed flyable.

Two hundred and eleven individuals made their first jump. A total of 346 jumps were made, including a mass jump of 40 freefallers on the last day. Convention Airborne Operations Damage Report: four broken legs.

It was a hectic engagement for the 1st Airborne, but on the whole, the mission was a success. What was it like for the "average" student? Here's how it was for Kevin Leary, reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle (reprinted with permission from the Chronicle, 29 September 1981 issue):

WE AIRBORNE TYPES ARE TOUGH

Frisco Newsman Makes Convention Jump



by Kevin Leary

COLD fear gnawed at my vitals, an icy constriction tightened around my heart and I had the sensation that a tennis ball had lodged in my larynx.

I was strapped into a parachute and standing in the open door of an ancient C-47 flying 2800 feet above the Arizona desert. In less than a minute we would be over the drop zone. I was to lead a group of 10 camouflage-clad parachutists — most of them novices like myself — in a simulated combat jump.

We were among about 150 jumpers, including eight women, trying our nerve and testing our machismo at the second annual convention of *Soldier of Fortune Magazine's* readers.

In the spirit of stern journalistic inquiry, and a moment of aberration, I had paid \$95 and volunteered for the one-day training course that culminated in a mass, military-style combat jump — a sort of graduation ceremony in which the survivors would join the select ranks of the airborne.

The training is conducted by members of the First Airborne Division, a non-military, Louisiana-based parachuting club. Although the club has no military status, its members' address



It's "Airborne All The Way" as Louisiana Highlanders lead students and 1st Airborne training cadre to DZ. Col. Madro Bandaries salutes. Photo: E.L. Woody



Michael Epstein of *Paraglide Magazine* gets final parachute check before boarding plane. Photo: Don Stuber

RIGHT: Stick of jump-school students wait in late afternoon sun to board DC-3. **LOWER RIGHT:** Jump-school students stand at attention awaiting stick assignments. **BELOW:** Capt. Rick Buckley adjusts student's parachute before boarding DC-3. Photos: Marv Wolf



each other by rank and wear Army uniforms, insignia, patches and badges.

The jumpers also wore uniforms. Only two of us were in civvies — me and one strange, silent fellow garbed all in black, including a black raincoat and a black slouch hat.

Presumably he was a spy. He didn't say. We didn't ask.

The commanding officer of the First Airborne is Col. Madro Bandaries, an amiable, 38-year-old insurance agent from Shreveport. The colonel laid it on the line during our four-hour training session, as we stood silently at attention, baking in the 108-degree desert heat.

"You can change your mind about jumping if you want to, but you'd better do it on the ground, 'cause I can guarantee that once you get in that bird, there ain't no way you ain't gonna jump," he said in his high-pitched drawl.

"You get in that plane and say you don't want to jump, we goin' to throw you out," he told us. "You heah me?"

"Yes, sir!" we howled.

"What are you?" he demanded.

"Airborne!" we yelled in unison.

"Where you goin'?" he bawled.

"All the way!" we thundered back — echoing the cry of the U.S. Army's real paratroopers.

Among the fantasy-indulging conventioners, the parachutists were considered the elite. They wore ID tags and maroon berets to identify themselves, and they strutted with an unmistakable swagger.

There was a day's delay in our jumping plans because our 36-year-old plane — literally held together with tape and wire — had mechanical problems. The FAA refused to let it go up with passengers.

That gave me the opportunity to hear dozens of parachuting stories, most involving grotesque mishaps and amusing equipment failures.

The delay also gave me time to reconsider and have profound doubts about parachuting. I was losing my nerve.

But that Saturday morning at 0600, as the big orange sun was glaring over the McDowell Mountains, I joined the other jumpers in formation to await the countdown.

With camouflage fatigues, helmets, parachutes and grim countenances, we looked as though we were about to launch the Normandy invasion.

At 0900, the word was passed — zero hour.

"Atten-hut!" We snapped to attention. "Right Face! Forward, march!"

We marched into the plane as the First Airborne's kilted, three-piece bagpipe band played a Scottish lament. It sounded like a funeral dirge.

At 0905, our plane coughed to life



Stand in the door! Go! Jumpers in the air over the Soldier of Fortune Drop Zone near Scottsdale, Ariz. Airborne all the way! Photo: Madro Bandaries

and took off in a cloud of desert grit. We spiraled laboriously to our jumping altitude. In 10 minutes we were over the drop zone.

The parachuting team on the left side of the plane went first. On command, the 10 men stood up and marched like lemmings out the open door. The only noise was a "whoosh" as each jumper leaped into the 100-mile-an-hour slip-stream.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, and they were gone.

"Get ready," jumpmaster Joe Wacks ordered, pointing to me. I was to be the first one in my group to jump.

"Hook up your static line."

I secured the nylon line that is supposed to open the chute automatically.

"Stand in the door."

I had about five minutes to look out the open door and watch the cactus-covered desert speed by far below.

This wasn't funny anymore. I was crouching in the doorway, clinging to the sides of the door with a grip of steel and grave misgivings. My mind was filled with trepidation and cunning alibis. I was turning yellow.

"Ready," said the jumpmaster. "Go!"

Fear turned to panic and then to horror, but I didn't hesitate. With a tremendous effort of will, I exited the plane with a vault that would have done credit to Tito Gaona, the wizard of the trapeze.

I felt the powerful rush of air that swept me away from the plane and I

heard my own voice ringing in my ears.:

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaagggggggggggh!"

Plummeting earthward in a state of near hysteria, I caught a glimpse of my chute streaming above me like the train of Lady Di's wedding dress. I fell for four, interminable seconds, then the canopy ballooned with air, slowing my plunge with a deliciously gentle shock. No loving mother ever gazed at her child with more affection than I did at that big silk umbrella overhead.

I toyed with the lines that steer the chute, but when the canopy began to flutter around the edges, I decided to let well enough alone. I was still 2000 feet above the ground, and I didn't want to do anything that would upset or deflate the chute.

For 2½ minutes, I hung in the harness, watching my jumpmates descend and enjoying the desert view from way up there.

About 200 feet from the ground, my reveries were interrupted by an instructor bellowing, "Get your feet together and prepare to land."

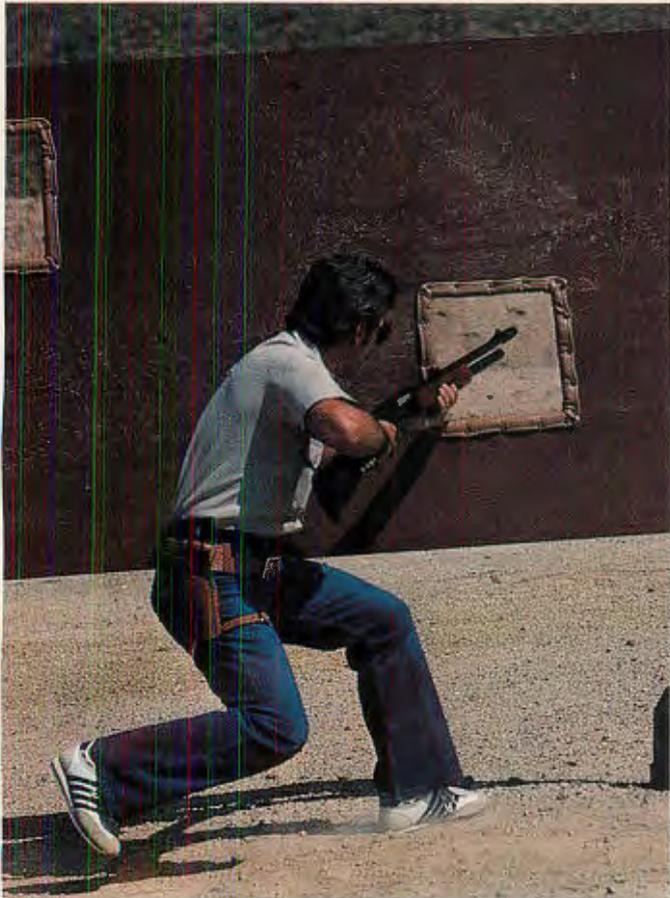
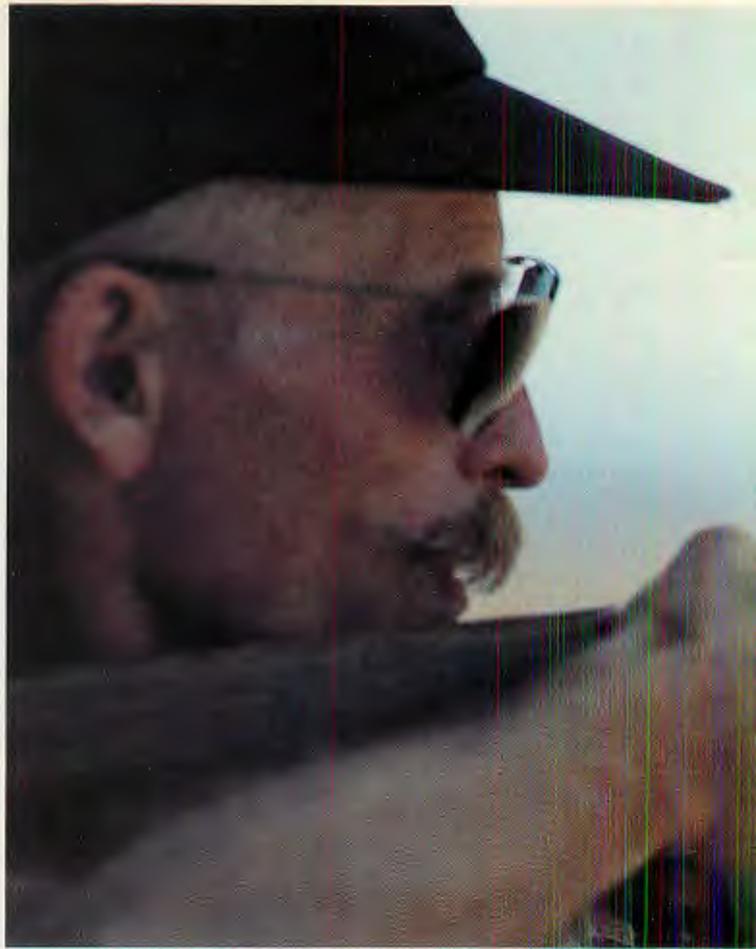
I prepared for the landing fall we practiced for hours the day before, a graceful tumble and roll. Instead, I hit the desert floor like a sack of pinto beans.

I made it in one piece though — not even a bruise. We airborne types are tough.





ABOVE: Match Co-Director Ken Hackathorn offers assistance to "Ivory Snow Girl" Marilyn Chambers in handling of 9mm Browning Hi-Power. By firing weapons in competition similar to main match, reporters got a better feel for the event. Some had never handled a weapon before. Photo: Marv Wolf



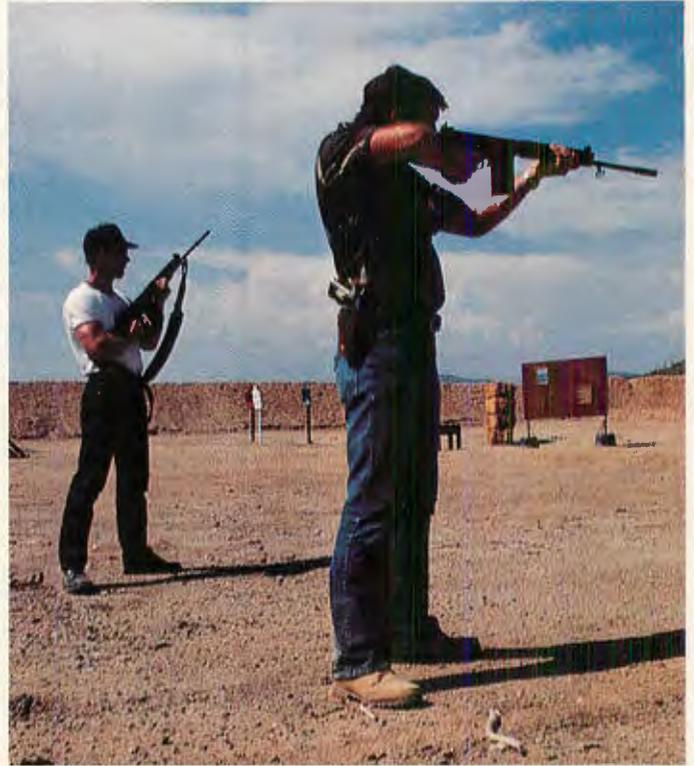
ABOVE: Competitor chambers round of buckshot during Stage II of shotgun match before engaging man-size silhouette targets from lower-window position. Competitor's sidearm had to be carried safely during all stages of entire match. Photo: Marv Wolf



ABOVE: Cactus Combat League officials monitor competitor during Stage I of 12-gauge shotgun slug match. IPSC Milpark targets were engaged from three stations, doorway being last. One shot at each target for a total of five shots made speed an important factor in this stage. Photo: Marv Wolf



LEFT: R.A. Laycock, Calgary, Alberta, fires Remington 1100 during John Satterwhite's pre-convention defensive shotgun course. BELOW: Press got into swing of things at convention. With new cammies and combat boots, they had as much fun as everyone else. Two journalists compete during press shoot with SOF-supplied FN-LARs. Photos: Marv Wolf



SHOOTOUT AT BLACK CANYON

Gifford Top Gun in SOF Match

by Jake Jatras

TODAY'S trooper must be able to use all weapons available to him in the field. This is the concept behind the SOF Invitational Three-Gun Match in which more than 100 of the top combat shooters in the United States faced each other last September for three days under the searing Arizona sun at Black Canyon Range outside of Phoenix. The test of combat skill involved the three basic combat weapons: rifle, shotgun and handgun.

When the *Soldier of Fortune* colors were lowered for the last time at the range, Craig Gifford of Bakersfield,

Calif., had emerged as the SOF Invitational Match Champion and the first International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) United States practical rifle champion. Brian Enos of Mesa, Ariz., was second and John Shaw of Memphis, Tenn., third.

SOF Small Arms Editor Ken Hackathorn and IPSC U.S. Region Director Jake Jatras designed the courses of fire. Emphasis was placed on the rifle competition. Unlike last year, .223-caliber weapons were allowed to compete and the match was conducted as a surprise event — the contestants did

not know the course of fire until the day before the contest began.

Match one of the rifle course was designated a "standard" exercise. Banks of three IPSC silhouette targets were placed 300 yards downrange and shooters had to engage them, freestyle, in set time limits. No optical sights were allowed, and bipods had to be either folded or carried securely at the beginning of each string.

The targets were scored using a modified power factoring to allow for differences between the major battle-rifle calibers (.30-06, .308, etc.) and

SOF SECOND ANNUAL COMBINED COMBAT SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP PRIZE DONORS

<i>Soldier of Fortune Magazine</i>	\$8,700.00
Choate Machine & Tool Co.	3,725.00
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Tiffin International	19.95
G-Jo Institute	12.50
Bulletmaster	12.00
Search and Rescue	12.00
Butler Creek	10.00
Lawrence Holster	10.00
Grand Total	\$40,845.55

TOP TEN IN RIFLE, PISTOL AND SHOTGUN STAGES, SOF'S COMBINED COMBAT SHOOT

	Rifle	Pistol	Shotgun
1.	C. Gifford	R. Neal	J. Shaw
2.	J. Scordato	M. Dalton	J. Platt
3.	L. Provience	C. Gifford	B. Enos
4.	B. Enos	R. Leatham	B. Rogers
5.	M. Harries	L. Provience	L. Souter
6.	M. Fowler	J. Usher	D. Wheeler
7.	T. Banks	J. Scordato	J. Chudwin
8.	J. Narus	B. Enos	C. Gifford
9.	J. Shaw	J. Vaughn	L. Nygard
10.	W. Patterson	M. Fowler	T. Banks

OVERALL MATCH STANDINGS

1.	C. Gifford	4.375	26.	R. Pendleton	37.125
2.	B. Enos	5.375	27.	D. Wheeler	37.375
3.	J. Shaw	11.750	28.	W. Baker	37.875
4.	B. Rogers	16.000	29.	L. Nygard	38.375
5.	K. Kirkham	17.125	30.	B. Dorhman	39.750
6.	L. Provience	17.500	31.	R. Renner	40.375
7.	M. Dalton	17.875	32.	S. Lamb	41.125
8.	J. Scordato	18.375	33.	A. Johnston	41.500
9.	P. Walker	20.750	34.	C. Byers	42.500
10.	M. Fowler	22.125	35.	D. Bates	42.750
11.	M. Lonsdale	22.125	36.	P. Welch	44.500
12.	J. Zubiena	27.875	37.	D. Betts	45.000
13.	L. Souter	28.125	38.	L. Jaye	46.000
14.	M. Harries	28.500	39.	B. Johnson	46.375
15.	F. Wardell	28.500	40.	R. Leatham	46.375
16.	R. Beckett	29.875	41.	H. Clafin	47.125
17.	M. Rowlands	30.000	42.	W. Patterson	48.500
18.	T. Banks	32.000	43.	L. Schoening	48.750
19.	J. Vaughn	33.375	44.	L. Belitz	48.875
20.	D. Ming	33.375	45.	R. Neal	51.250
21.	D. Churilla	34.375	46.	F. Behlert	51.750
22.	E. Deacon	35.125	47.	D. Wales	52.875
23.	J. Chudwin	35.625	48.	E. Blankinship	53.375
24.	J. Narus	36.875	49.	T. Oliver	53.375
25.	G. Williams	36.875	50.	D. Martinez	54.000

Numbers beside each name are the combined, weighted, averaged final scores for each competitor. Lowest number is best.

MATCH SPONSORS

Soldier of Fortune and all competitors owe special thanks to those firms which sponsored the matches.

M-S Safari Arms sponsored the pistol match, contributing a custom .45-auto stainless-steel Matchmaster with an engraved slide — Serial Number SOF 1981 — in a presentation walnut case; retail value about \$1200. Safari Arms also contributed 10 sets of accessories worth \$125 each, \$500 toward cash awards, and the trophy for the first-place pistol winner.

Garth Choate, sponsor of the shotgun match, presented to the winner a Choate-modified Remington 870 pump shotgun and an 1100

auto, both in 12-gauge. Choate also donated \$500 cash and a trophy, and presented the second-place winner with a Choate Ruger Mini-14 in .223.

Denny Reese, president of Springfield Armory, sponsored the rifle match, and anteed up a BM-59 .308 Alpine Paratrooper worth \$1750 for first place, plus \$500 cash and a trophy.

Combat Handguns magazine contributed the first-place overall trophy and \$500 cash. The presentation was made by *Combat Handguns* Associate Publisher Virginia Commander.

—J.J.



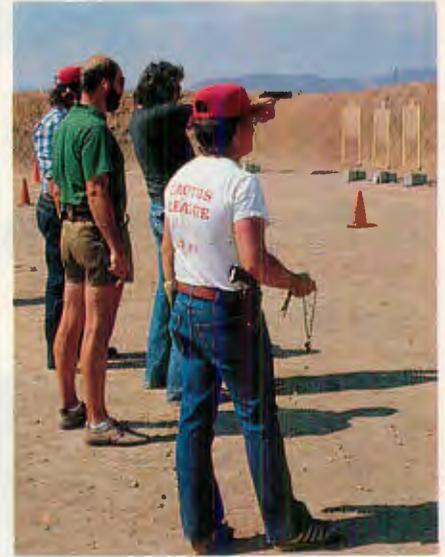
ABOVE: Porno Queen Marilyn Chambers shoots her own holes at press shoot, where media representatives got a chance to shoot rifle, pistol and shotgun in miniature version of main event. Photo: Billy Tinney

the lighter-caliber guns (.223, 6mm, etc.). The new IPSC "Milpark" target was used and scored 10-9-8 for major and 10-8-7 for minor weapons.

Although the .223 shooters were confident that they could prove themselves in this type of competition, it soon became woefully apparent that at the distances involved they would not be competitive with the popular .308s. The wind was a factor, but many felt that on the quicker Stage Two of the rifle match, the assault test, they could make up for the dismal showing on the "standards." It was not to be. Despite the 150-yard maximum range of targets and the time factor of recovery time, the M1As and HK-91s still proved to be the weapons to have on the "assault" match. A mandatory reload negated the large-magazine capacity feature of the .223s, which under normal conditions would have given them a slight edge in speed.

Continued on page 69

BELOW: Under close supervision of match officials, journalists compete during pistol stage of press shoot. Scoring by stage points, Jim Weisiger of "What's Up, America" took first overall in this event. Photo: Billy Tinney



ABOVE: Competitors used 12-gauge buckshot during Stage II of shotgun match. This stage took about 25 seconds to complete, in which shooters engaged man-sized silhouette targets from stations 10 to 20 yards away. Two rounds were fired from each station (barricade, high window, low window and pit) and a mandatory reload of two rounds was required. Photos: Marv Wolf



LEFT: Cook County, Ill., Sheriff Alan Kulovitz zeroes in with Armalite AR-180 during rifle match. Photo: Marv Wolf
ABOVE: Match Directors Ken Hackathorn (holding FN-LAR) and Jake Jatras (center, in green cap) begin press shoot, in which members of press were able to fire weapons used during SOF match competition. Photo: Billy Tinney

RANGER IN PARADISE

Part 2: Larry Dring—The Making of A Professional

Jim Morris



Dring follows his radio operator through Vietnamese jungle. Operator was later killed in Pleiku during Tet '68 when he tried to help Dring, who had been hit in the back by a grenade.

Jim Morris first met Staff Sgt. Larry Dring in Korea in 1962. In 1967 when Morris reached Vietnam, he heard of Capt. Larry Dring, a legendary leader of a Mike Force Company of Montagnards — but Dring had already returned to the States. When Dring returned to Vietnam the following year, the two men met again.

In 1980, Morris arranged to interview Dring for SOF. The two met in the university town where Dring and his family now live and Morris learned the story of the Drings' unusual courtship.

Dring and his company were in Pleiku during Tet. On 10 January 1968, Maj. Justin McCarty, commanding officer (CO), asked Dring to investigate a report of small-arms fire in the vicinity of the POW compound.

Dring discovered the "shots" were firecracker reports — but he was uneasy, until he realized their

purpose: They were masking actual gunfire. He led his men toward the missionary compound at the edge of town.

When they reached the last street, Dring saw more NV regulars "than I'd seen in any one place, including the POW compound, during five tours in 'Nam." The two groups stared at each other across the street — and then the shooting started.

Dring was hit in the back by a grenade. His steel canteen saved his life by deflecting most of the blast. After he fell, an NVA rushed him, AK in hand, and shot him in the leg, severing an artery. Dring was able, however, to use his own weapon to kill his attacker. One of his men dragged him into the nearby home of a missionary doctor and four nurses — one of whom was Becky, who is now his wife.

After he received first aid, Dring

was able to get on the radio to report to Maj. McCarty that his unit had met at least a reinforced company of NVA. Two American tanks were also involved in the fighting. The crew of the first panicked, but the second had put up a good fight before it was destroyed. The VC who had set off the firecrackers were apprehended — thanks to the telltale shreds of paper around their homes.

The missionaries, Dring and his wounded were evacuated to the American hospital — where the nurses volunteered their services in treating the wounded. Becky visited Dring every day before he was evacuated. She came to say goodbye to him on the medevac aircraft just before it took off — and that's when he proposed.

But Dring's adventures started long before the Vietnam years, as this second part of his story shows.

LARRY Dring didn't have to wait until he was a Mike Force commander to become a legend in his own time. He was too prone to get caught up in arguments, coups and revolutions for that. We talked about his adventures as a young sergeant and I asked him how old he was when he joined the Army.

Dring said, "I was two days short of 17. I put a year in the Guard until I was old enough to go in the Army. I was a bugler in military school. I can't read music — it's strictly by ear.

"I went in the Five Oh Four Regiment. Before they found out I could play the bugle I was in the pits. One day they were lookin' around for somebody to play the bugle and I just happened to be sittin' in the headshed. The bugle was there and I was playin' with the mouth piece. The sergeant major asked me if I could play.

"I said, 'Yessir.' That afternoon I was a PFC, 'cause they couldn't have a private standin' out there doin' it.

"Each battalion had a bugler, by TO&E [Table of Organization and Equipment]. I played for four or five months, and I was gettin' ready to be regimental bugler and a corporal. Oh boy, that's a small-unit god with two hard stripes. I auditioned for the job and got it. But they had a reorganization and dropped the slot and I got replaced by a record player. There went my two stripes.

"I had a friend, Henry Miller, who'd been in the Army Air Corps in WWII. He was a hustler, and he showed me the ropes. When I went on active duty with another friend, we showed up with three pairs of faded, slick-sleeved, tailored fatigues and spit-shined boots. Anybody can spot issue stuff. We stowed that in the foot locker. The cadre figured we were re-enlistees and made us platoon leaders, and the mess sergeant told us to go flake out in the storeroom while everybody else went to KP. It wasn't hard — after military school — marchin' those guys. Gettin' over like a fat rat at 17.

"I was lucky. I was in the 82nd Airborne Division and when I was 19 I went to Ranger School. Before that they put me in the signal platoon."

I asked him if he made E-5 when he graduated from Ranger School.

Dring replied, "I was supposed to, but makin' E-5 was contingent on three things: Did you get the tab? Did your TAC [tactical officer] recommend you? Did the parent unit concur? That was usually a foregone conclusion. But they had

put me in the signal platoon and sent me to signal school. I didn't want to go but they went by IQ. In airborne units at that time you wore a size-three hat and a size-40 shirt. They had a commitment and they figured, 'Well, he's got an IQ, we'll send him to signal school.'

"So I came back with ciphers and teletype MOS [Military Occupational Specialty]. I was really locked into signal but I didn't want any part of it. I wanted to go to Ranger School, but every time a commitment came down for Rangers, some sergeant or lieutenant would get it. My chances as an E-4 were those of a snowball in a furnace.

"The reconnaissance platoon sergeant told me, 'I'll get you in recon if you go to Ranger or

"The platoon leader and the company commander left while I was at Ranger School and I could have made sergeant, and it wouldn't have cost them a thing. But my unit said, 'No, he's young and immature.' So they got the word down at Ranger School: 'The parent unit said no. He's young and immature.' And they got frosted, because they'd just about cut the orders. It created a little ill will.

"A couple of the other guys made sergeant though. On our way back, we stopped in a little country hamburger joint in Georgia. A young girl came over, sayin', 'Ah, you guys are Rangers.' Here it was — recognition. My head swelled up like a volleyball.

"Listen to this: 'Do you work for



Incoming! SF A Camp in Central Highlands takes fire from Charlie.



Capt. Larry Dring remembers Sgt. Dring, the medic — inoculates Thai child with help of Thai SF medic.

Pathfinder school right now.'

"One night I was sittin' in the headshed on CQ [Charge of Quarters]. I started readin' the regulations. I found I could apply for a service-school quota rather than directly to Ranger School. In other words, I could apply to the division headquarters so that the next one that came down would have my name on it. A month later there were four commitments — and Dring. So I went to Ranger School. But I was still an E-4 when I came back and my parent unit didn't concur because I'd made so many waves to get out of the signal platoon.

the forestry department?"

"I was back at the unit one week when they decided to put E-4s on KP. Being a D, I was one of the first ones. Okay. Breakfast.

"A couple of comics came through the line: 'Ho ho ho! You gotta be a Ranger to go on KP?'

" 'Now we're gettin' Ranger-qualified KPs.' Ho ho ho for breakfast. By lunchtime it was old. Enough!

"Suppertime: Here came a clown. A real sarcastic comedian. Administration platoon, no less. He started that same baloney — and that was it.

"I reached across the serving line and grabbed the dude with one hand. I dragged him across the chow line, bopping him in the face all the way. His boots went in the meat and potatoes. That put the skids on supper for the hundred guys in the line. They pulled me off the guy, who was a little bent out of shape with one boot full of potatoes and the other full of meat.

"The cook was really indignant about this, because he'd have to cook up some hot dogs right quick — and the company commander just happened to be there. He was acting company commander, a first lieutenant. He was in the Signal Corps, but he was a mustang out of Korea. He had a CIB [Combat Infantry Badge] as an enlisted man, came up through the ranks.

"I was called to his office; I had to wait outside. First the cook went in and told his story; then the other guy went in and told his. They both sat there smirking when I was called in.

"The lieutenant said, 'What have you got to say for yourself?'

"I said, 'Sir, I know you're gonna take my stripes, and that's all right. My only request is I want to go to a rifle company.'

"He looked at me and asked, 'Why?'

"I said, 'Sir, I want to go to a rifle company and be a soldier.'

"He said, 'Don't you think you're a soldier now?'

" 'No, sir.'

" 'What platoon are you in?' he asked.

" 'Sir, I'm in signal platoon.'

"He was wearing his ODs with big signal brass and he had a Silver Star and a Purple Heart. He was no slacker, but I stood looking him right in the eye.

"He looked right back and said, 'I'm a signal officer. Don't you think I'm a soldier?'

" 'No, sir,' I told him. 'You're a signal communicator.'

"He came up from behind that desk and I backed off, but he just

stood there and said, 'Were you going to hit me, corporal?'

"I knew it: Lock City! 'Sir, I thought *you* were gonna hit *me*.'

"He said, 'If you didn't leave the headquarters company where would you want to go?'

"I said, 'Sir, I'd like to be in the reconnaissance platoon.'

"So instead of busting me and putting me in jail he transferred me to recon. That's where I made sergeant. A year or so later, I joined the 77th SF Group and became a medic."

Larry Dring's first assignment in Group was as medic in the 1st SF, on a team that rotated between Korea and Okinawa. He advised the Korean Special Forces — during which time he studied the history, customs and language of Korea.

Dring got off to a wonderful start in Korea. He told me, "I learned a long time ago to back off and see what the Indians were doing. For instance, when I was a corpsman

We got some straw and he taught me how to wet-weave strips of it. I thought, 'This is very nice. I'm makin' little doilies outta grass, killin' time.' I felt like Rumpelstiltskin. I had some 5,000-pound-test suspension line in my pack so I didn't really need the straw.

"But I thought, 'Back off. Find out what he's doin'.'

"At that time the Army had slick shoes. In winter when we walked, we walked with leather. When we stood still we took the rubber bunny boots out. Actually, most of the time in Group we'd just chuck the heavy-monster thermal boots because they made prunes outa your feet. You just had to make sure you kept your feet dry.

"So this Korean guy took two pieces of weavin' about 10 feet long, and I noticed a lot of the other Koreans had 'em. There were only two Americans, me and Jimmy Gabriel.



Capt. Dring feeds M1919A6 MG in Vietnam's Central Highlands during late '60s.



Dring brandishes NVA flag captured by Mike Force in Central Highlands in 1968.

in Korea it snowed a lot and we used to operate at night. I'd have to carry an M5 aid kit — and it got heavy.

"One day a Korean guy came in. He had the clap and I squared him away, filled him up with penicillin.

"He asked me, 'How much do I owe you?'

At the time I couldn't speak Korean. I could speak Japanese, though, and he had a little English.

"I got the message across: 'You don't owe me anything, pal. This is what I do for a livin'.'

"He was ecstatic. In his army it would cost him. So he sat down with me in this little Korean house.

"I thought, 'What do I need this weavin' for?' I need it like leprosy.' But I tied it on my pack. Nighttime came along. Blip. Time to go.

"The Korean said, 'Wait! Wait!' I wanted to make sure that I got in motion. I had my little stick and my carbine — and I wanted to make sure I could wobble.

"The guy started wrapping the weavings around my feet. I thought, 'What in the world? What do I need this wrapped around my feet for?'

"We started up that hill and old Gabriel had a world of hurt because he was slipping, since our boots had slick bottoms on their feet. Me, I just swooped right up that hill. Those straw things were traction devices for your feet.

"I learned something. If you can't learn something from somebody else, shame on you.

"I learned something from a German SFC when I was in Ranger School. I was a corporal. It was a lesson I never forgot. He'd been in World War Twice and he fought Americans. (Other Germans you talk to fought Russians.) Well, this guy fought Americans. You asked him and he told you.

"He was there with a German captain, an artillery man, fantastically good with maps, and a fruitcake lieutenant, a little punk kid. They were comin' through to learn something about our Ranger School so they could start a German equivalent. They called it the school of the airborne individual fighter. You know, in German the title comes out eight feet long. (They're just like the Chinese — they keep on addin'.)

"We went out on a fire-and-maneuver exercise at night. M1 rifle, cartridge belt and a couple of bandoliers. Bangety-bangety-bang. Next morning we came in and we had to turn in unused ammo, clean our weapons and go to chow. The sergeant was in front of me. Most of the guys had just turned in two to four clips. He got up, took one bandolier off, then he took another one off. Then he opened up his pouches — nine clips.

"I turned in my four or five clips and I walked over to him and said, 'Hey, Ray! Didn't you fire your weapon last night?'

"He looked at me like I was a nut. He said, 'Ja, Ja, I fired.'

"Well, you didn't fire very much. How many times did you fire?'

"He looked at me and saw I was serious. 'I fired three times.'

"Everybody else was out shootin' all night. Why did you only fire three times?'

"He looked at me like I was

stupid and held up three fingers: 'I only saw three men.' No doubt in my mind what would have happened to those three guys. I used to beat that into my people's heads when I was a company commander in Vietnam.

"In my company they fired if they were being shot at — and if they weren't being shot at it was gonna cost 'em. They lit a cigarette, it'd cost 'em. They made a lot of noise, it'd cost 'em. We did not make a lot of noise, but when we fired somebody'd roll over and die. Most Americans would shoot at people. Just see somebody and start shootin' at him. Most people on automatic only make noise.

"Look, when they're runnin' around, if you start shootin' too soon you're gonna lose 'em. If a guy's walkin' away from you, let him go. If he's comin' across your front, wait until he gets directly in front of you. Then if you miss, you



Medical Sgt. Larry Dring treats 3-year-old girl at Plei Diar Rong in 1962. Dring says, "I know the hat medal is French airborne — but since we were working for Combined Studies Group we really had no uniform regs."

can shoot again. When a guy's comin' at you, just stand there and watch him. He'll come right up to the muzzle. If he wants to throw his hands up, great. If he doesn't, remove his head.

"That's why I used to have a M1A1 carbine and a 30-round magazine. 'Course I only put about 27 rounds in it, or on the short, 15-rounders, about 12 rounds. All tracer. And I had eight lead-round magazines with tracer at the bottom, so I'd know, 'I'm out of ammunition; it's time to change.' I had the solid tracer because I was the company commander. I wasn't gonna shoot anybody. I was gonna direct traffic. If I decided we

needed to shoot anybody I'd jump up and start goin' bang . . . bang on semiautomatic. My men would see me. They'd see the tracer. If I shot where would they shoot? On the tracer. Where were the bad guys? On my tracer. Some guys just want to run around with a gun and make noise. That's not the purpose of the exercise.

"The most deadly weapon you have is the handset of your radio: Keep cool and call in army and air strikes. By the way, tracer is good for air-ground. Tell the pilot, 'Fire on my tracer.' "

Dring made many good friends in Korea, and the best of them was a captain named Kim. When Dring was transferred to Okinawa he took most of his leaves in Korea as Kim's house guest. Korean custom dictates that house guests attend parties to which the host is invited. At one of these parties Dring made what was to prove an important acquaintance.

Dring explained, "I met Gen. Chou Moon Huan before the coup at a party. I was sittin' in the last seat down. Nobody knew me. Somebody wanted to send a servant out for something, and somebody else took out a couple of coins. One of them, about the size of a quarter, had a picture on it of a turtleboat, a little boat covered with shields. The Japanese navy came into Pusan Harbor to X out the Koreans in 1500, but the Koreans had what was in fact the first iron-clad ship. They Xed out the Japanese navy and that kept Japan off their backs for a couple of hundred years. 'Course the Japanese never forgot it.

"But the coin plopped out. I wasn't lookin' at my friend but at this other guy with the coin. Kim was almost on ice because I was there — but he'd had to bring me and he was kind of hoping I'd disappear into the upholstery.

"I walked over to the man and said a few words to him. It was a new coin. I said, 'Oh, that's the turtleboat coin.'

"He said, 'Oh, yes.'

"Everything got quiet. When the main mug talks in Korea everybody else shuts up. He said, 'How do you know about the turtleboat?'

"Poor Kim almost went under the table because the general was talking to me, a sergeant, and he knew if I said the wrong thing, it would put him under the ground. And I knew it too, because that's how it is in the Orient.

"I said, 'I believe, sir, that it was the boat of Adm. Ne Son Shi in Pusan Harbor in 1500, when he defeated the Japanese.'

"That was 1515," he said.

"Oh boy. Excuse me."

"How did you know about the turtleboat?"

"Everybody else had shut up. Everybody, a couple of carloads of colonels, just shut up."

"I said, 'Well, sir, I studied history, and it's very interesting that it was the first time an iron-clad had been used and it defeated the Japanese navy.'

"Come here!"

"I didn't know if he was going to shoot me or what. I went up there and he made me push some colonel out of the way."

"He said, 'You speak Korean?' So I said something in Korean."

"Very good accent."

"I said, 'I'm trying, sir, but I still have to improve my vocabulary.' I was still on ice, wondering if I was sayin' the right thing. If I said something wrong me and my friend were both gonna be in a bag."

"He said, 'What else do you know?'"

"I said, 'Well, sir, I've studied your country.'

"Of course, he'd had a few snorts at the time. He said sarcastically, 'We have many advisers who come to tell us many things, but they don't read about our country.'

"I said, 'You have a very interesting history, sir.'

"We batted a few things back and forth. I knew some of the main points. (It was like knowing who George Washington was.) Then he wanted to know how I got there. I didn't know what to say. I almost bit my tongue on that one. How would he take a sergeant being a good friend of a captain?"

"He said, 'You should come to more parties.'

"It warped his torque that I didn't drink. He wasn't bombed, but he was happy. He looked me right dead in the eye and asked, 'Do you smoke?'"

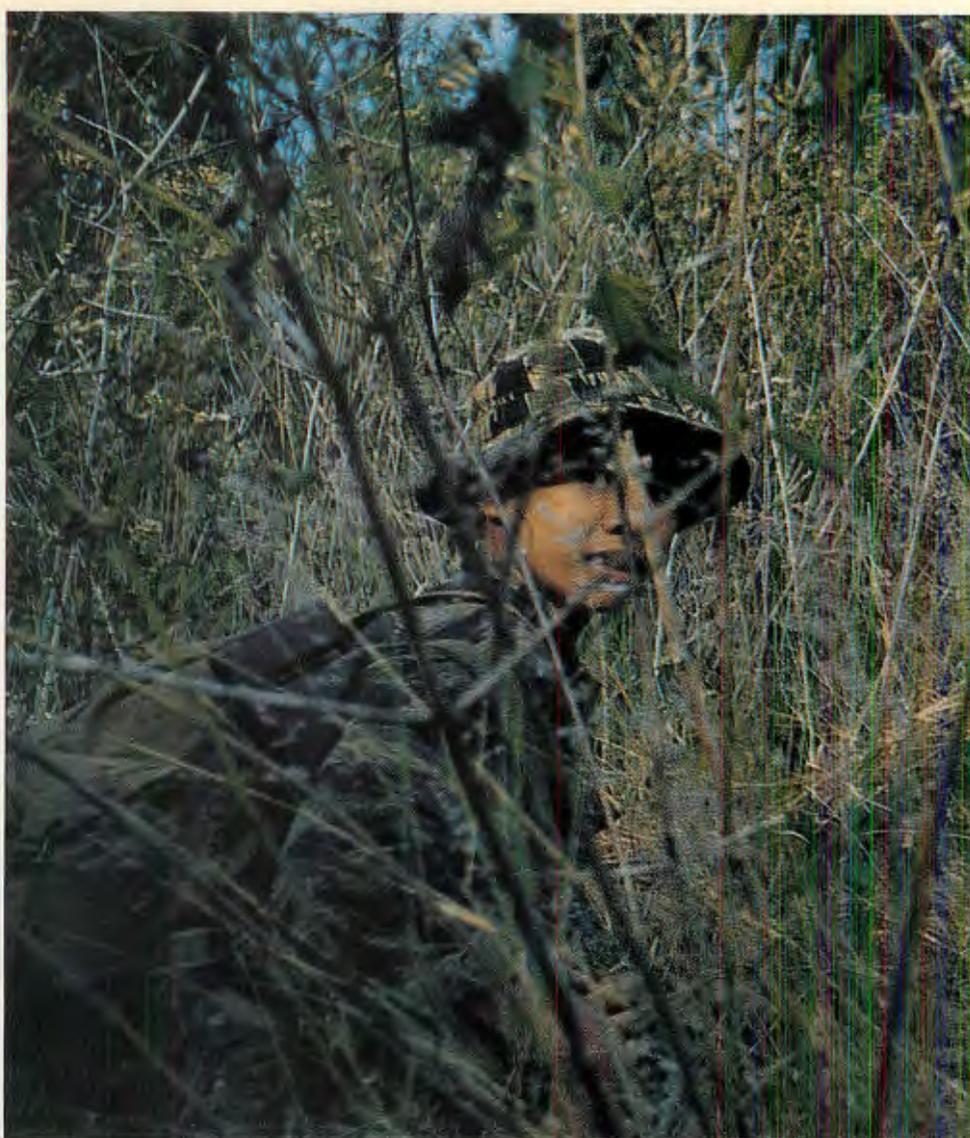
"No, sir."

"Oh, you must be a Christian."

"Yes, sir." And he thought that was neat."

In the spring of 1961 Dring went back to Korea, because he wanted to get his Korean wings, and the Koreans didn't pass them out like cocktail peanuts, as some other Asian nations did. It took five jumps to qualify, and he had made four.

Dring and a friend on the resident team hooked up with what they thought was going to be an airborne operation. They borrowed a Korean jeep, put on Korean camouflage fatigues and joined the convoy.



The convoy did not go to the airbase, however. It joined another group and headed out to the presidential palace to take over the country. After they had run several roadblocks and thrown a platoon of Korean MPs over a bridge, the two young American sergeants cut out of the column and went to the headquarters of the Korean Military Assistance Advisory Group to report what was going on.

The colonels and the general who advised Korean units went into a nutroll, as the two sergeants identified the units that had been participating in the coup. They demanded to know how Dring knew what units were involved.

Dring told me he said, "Well, the artillery units had M42 dusters and Quad 50s, and the Eighth Division was wearing Eighth Division patches.' (It really didn't require a Sherlock Holmes to figure it out.)

"The colonel said, 'How do you know?'"

"Because we were with 'em."

"They asked how we knew about

Dring's Mike Force troopers snoopin' and poopin' in Central Highlands.

the ROK Airborne Brigade.

"Well, their boss is leadin' 'em."

"How do you know?"

"Well, I saw the guy's name. I know him. His name is Chou Moon Huan."

"The colonel started playin' games with me. 'How do you understand these things?'"

"Because I speak Korean."

"What organization are you with?"

"First Special Forces Group."

"What?"

"Okinawa.' I was from Okinawa. The other guy was from Kimpo. They went bughouse."

"They sent us out to drive downtown and do some snoopin', find out what was going on and report back."



"We were the only Americans out. It turned into a real bummer, because the first day they didn't censor the newspapers, which said the Korean Special Forces came down and held a police call, with American advisers."

I asked him if that meant him.

Dring answered, "It wasn't us. They saw a couple of guys on pass walkin' around. Of course, we were still wearing Korean army uniforms. It was the only thing we had to wear, though we could have gone out in our underwear, I guess."

"We went downtown and met a couple of Koreans, one of whom we knew. I asked him if he could help me find my friend, Capt. Kim. He couldn't help us. We finally bumped into Kim on the street. We gave him back the jeep. The Koreans needed vehicles and it relieved us of the responsibility. This left us on foot."

"Kim said, 'C'mon along for the ride. I'll take you.' We went down to the Bando Hotel. In walked a sergeant, and he had an unhappy-looking Korean in a business suit

next to him. Kim was playin' with the sergeant's grease gun, checkin' it out. It was a M3 submachine gun.

"I asked the sergeant, in Korean, 'Who's that guy?'"

"Old Kim looked up and said, 'Oh, he's the minister of agriculture.' He put the grease gun on the guy and asked me, 'Would you like to be minister of agriculture?'"

"So that's what they called me around Group for a while, the minister of agriculture. That's got to be a real winner: Little Larry Dring, the minister of agriculture."

"We finally got back to Group about one o'clock. By this time things had changed. The newspaper reports had come out about the American advisers, so they wanted us to stay in the background. It wasn't us, but after that nobody wanted any part of us."

"Some other things happened. Gen. Magruder was the commander of the Eighth Army and the United Nations forces, so he was ostensibly commander of the ROK

army. He said, 'Order those insurgents back to their camps.'

"Well, c'mon. This was a coup. The Koreans in it had put their necks on the block. It was either go for broke or find another country. Then the ambassador came up and ran off his mouth, saying he wouldn't deal with anybody but the old government. By this time, however, there wasn't any old government."

"Chung Hee Park was the new main man. So the general and the ambassador had to be relieved. They'd ruined themselves with the new regime. Nobody would obey them and they were on their way out."

"But before this happened, we were sent over to Magruder's office in Eighth Army Headquarters. The general said, 'Who are you?'"

"We were still wearing Korean uniforms and by now needing a shave. We looked grungy."

"I said, 'Sgt. Dring, 1st Special Forces Group [Okinawa].'"

"He said, '1st Special Forces. I didn't know we had Special Forces over here, sergeant.'"

"I'm from Okinawa, sir."

"What are you doing up here?'"

"I'm on leave."

"The real zinger is I had my passport with me because I'd hitchhiked over on an airplane, and I'd thought I might have to go back by way of Japan. If you didn't have orders, you might have to go civil air, and I had to be back by a certain date. So if push came to shove, I'd planned to jump on Air Japan — and in order to do that you had to have a passport."

"I was from Okinawa, in the middle of a coup, with a passport."

"I was the only cargo on the next C-130 on its way back to Okinawa. I didn't even get a chance to go to Kimpo to pick up my bags."

"They put my friend on the next available slow boat goin' home. He was assigned to Korea; that was his duty. You ever hear of a guy gettin' thrown out of Korea?'"

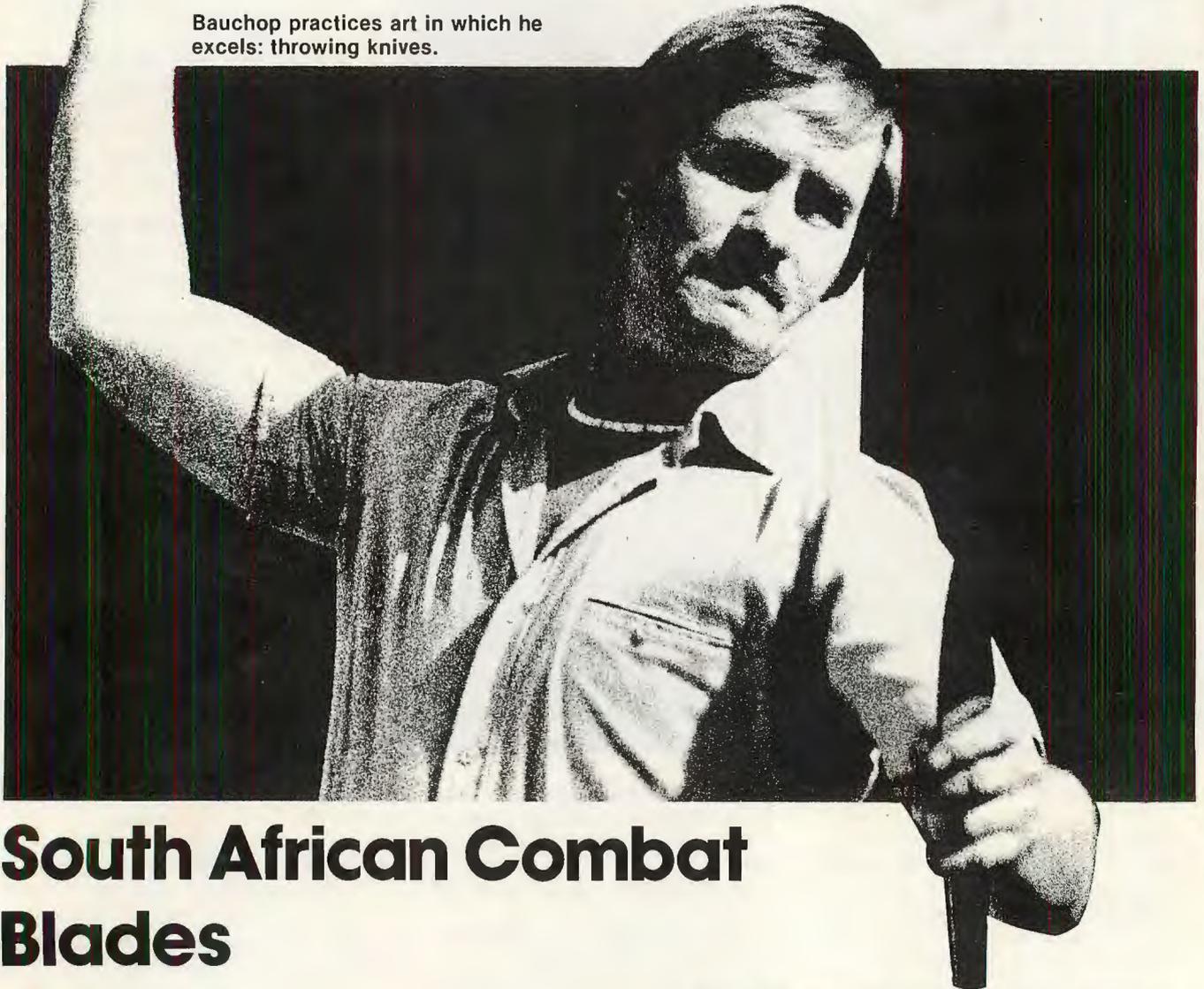
"When I requested leave, I had gone to old Pappy Leechford, C Company sergeant major, a real nice guy. He said, 'I dunno, Dring, if I should approve this leave. Every time you go someplace it rains. No matter where you go something happens.'"

"Before getting on the plane to go back to Okinawa, I told the radio operator (we had direct contact, and it was very informal), 'Hey, just put a little message on there, to C Company; say, 'Pappy, I didn't do it. Dring.'"

Continued on page 72

WITCHES, WARLOCKS AND WASPS

Bauchop practices art in which he excels: throwing knives.



South African Combat Blades

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter

PPETER Bauchop makes knives which some people use to kill others.

Judging by demand, his products are fairly successful, for they are not only being used by some of South Africa's special and airborne forces in the Angolan debacle, but for a long while he was one of the principal suppliers — with Angus Arbuckle (see "Angus Arbuckle's No-Nonsense Knives," SOF, December '80) — of combat knives to Rhodesia's Special Air Services, Selous Scouts and RLI commando units.

A combat specialist himself, as proficient at throwing blades as he is at fighting with them, Bauchop

designs most of his weapons for combat. His "Witch," a combat/boot fighting blade with double-quillon guard, for example, has a handle large enough to allow the grip necessary in combat.

It further has a "skull-crusher" taper at the blunt end which, Bauchop says, makes possible stunning blows. Because it incorporates a full tang throughout, the blade is almost impossible to break.

Bauchop's special sheaths have clips which can be changed around so that the blade can be worn right-side-up or upside-down from webbing.

There are no frills. Scales are

black micarta and the metal parts on the "Witch" are blued to avoid reflections at night. "If the blueing is discolored or tarnished by blood, it's easy to touch it up again," Bauchop told me.

The "Witch" is as mean a mother as can be found among any fighting man's equipment. Now there is also American demand for the offering.

By Bauchop's own admission, he likes "anything naughty or illegal," a preference which shows in his products, usually made to order. His latest specialty product is the brass-knuckleduster "paperweight" which comes complete with a leather pouch which can be worn on the



ABOVE: Bauchop "Warlock" (top), a big fighter made of high-carbon and chrome D2 steel (also available in blacked version) and "Bowie."

RIGHT: Selection of "Witch" fighters: This batch went to Special Forces unit on South Africa's border with Angola.



belt. "Ideal for use in a tight spot," Bauchop explains casually. He recently used one to help himself out of a bar fight in which he lost a finger: "The guy bit it off."

When time allows, he also makes Shuriken throwing stars and some of the best throwing blades to come out of Africa. Originally he used spring steel to fashion these deadly instruments, but has since changed to Swedish stainless 6C27 because, he maintains, it withstands more shock than ordinary gauge plate does.

Another specialty is his buckle knife, which has found application in South Africa's border wars. These

knives are usually coupled with another, smaller knife, worn *side-ways* on the belt and within easy reach in an emergency. A more recent development is his "Wasp," one of which he wears himself on the inside of his sleeve. The compact little sheath incorporates Velcro to make it stick. This blade, too, is made of stainless 6C27 steel and does not tarnish under any conditions.

Bauchop also produces larger knives such as the "Warlock" combat knife made of D2 high-carbon chrome steel and blacked for operational work. This weapon also found its way into Rhodesia's SAS.

A derivative, the "Alley Cat," is not much smaller. Like all Bauchop's knives it follows in the tradition set by Bob Loveless's work: ideal for either combat or display. More recently, he has turned to "fun" knives, producing some really beautiful hunters and skinners as well as a Bowie survival knife with a hollow handle.

Bauchop, 37 years old, started his professional life as an airways technician after coming out of the South African air force. He has also spent time in firearms production. He enjoys the exciting sports of scuba and sky diving. For a year he raced motor cars.



ABOVE: Unusual "Wasp," made of Swedish 6C27 stainless steel. Bauchop customarily wears it under his sleeve.



RIGHT: Close-up of four of Bauchop's more unusual, smaller knives. Tiny hunter is usually given as gift to close associates.



Two of Bauchop's most beautiful blades, hunters with black micarta handles designed specifically for work in African bush.

Making knives is relatively new to him. He started only four years ago in a backyard *workshop* in Germiston, on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Since then, Bauchop has moved to a small factory near his home where he often works around the clock when demand is acute enough. There is no production line — everything is made by hand.

In steels, Bauchop uses what he can find on the local market. Until recently, he was restricted to D2, but then moved on to 440C which he buys by the foot in 1/8-, 3/16- and 1/4-inch thicknesses; these all come in strips an inch and a half wide and, until Swedish steel arrived on the

local market, this restriction kept him from producing some of the larger combat blades he envisaged.

His methods are simple. He starts each blade by cutting out its shape on a band saw. If a particular design pleases him, or if there is adequate demand, he makes a template of the shape; he reckons he currently has about 20 designs on hand. He prefers to vary his design and might produce the same knife the second time around with a tapered tang, or with a hollow grind instead of a flat grind. If a blade is to be used operationally, he allows no compromise in any phase of production, especially in heat treatment.

"A man's life could be at stake, so I give it the best I've got," he declares firmly.

Peter Bauchop has his own ideas about "perfect" shapes for knives. He thinks the best skinner should have a short, wide-bellied blade about two inches long with a finger hole for versatility. "If you're skinning, you can be at it for several hours. You want something to help you with the task and not hinder you."

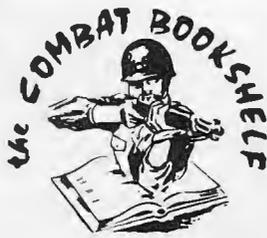
Sometimes, especially with "fun" knives, he makes handles from materials other than micarta. He believes the best wood for handles is an African hardwood called Tambuti. "It's tough and resilient and does not become slippery, even when wet." He also has on hand supplies of red and black ivory wood from Mozambique but is not enthusiastic about African wild olive.

He will not make an elephant-ivory or buffalo-horn scale to order, but thinks that these products, though beautiful when properly used, don't hold their shape perfectly. "They look nice and that's all," he says. A recent hunting knife from his workbench was the guardless version with black micarta scales, used largely because blood and gristle won't make them warp.

All Bauchop's knives come with handmade sheaths which he shapes according to personal whim. He uses buffalo hide when he can get it. He makes a quality product at a price which makes a Bauchop knife accessible to most.

Peter Bauchop can be contacted at Dept. SOF, 89 Elsburg Road, Delville, Germiston, South Africa. His telephone number is Johannesburg 825-4047; bear in mind that South Africa is seven hours *ahead* of U.S. Eastern Standard Time. Call early morning U.S. time.





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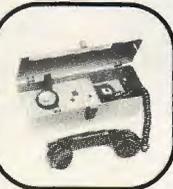
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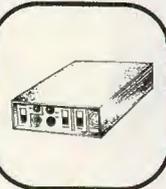
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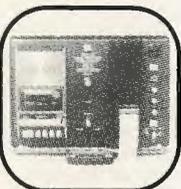
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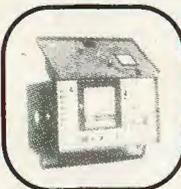
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READY

Continued from page 45

rendezvous with the defenders of LZ Hawk. Down on the deck, the LSTs *Cuyuga* and *Tuscaloosa* ease up to a spot less than a mile off the black cliffs. They turn seaward, and captains on both bridges order, "Ahead Slow." The ships rock from side to side as their well hatches slide open in the sterns. Through the hatches tumble a procession of olive-green LVTs, like so many turtles leaving their nest.

It's hot in the amtracs, and there isn't much room amid the noise and the gloom. Somebody's breakfast is upchucked onto someone else's boots, and the acidic stench quickly permeates every corner of the heaving steel track. The squad leader peers out over the three-foot waves through his periscope, looking for the wave leader's track and the signal flag flying from it. The driver sits with only his head above the hatch, hoping the next wave won't drown them all.

It's a long ride into the beach and, this time, at the other end is just a beach with a Huey circling overhead — the Regimental CO, Col. Buehl's craft. Then it's a quick turnaround and another slow ride back to the ship, followed by a muster, some cleanup of weapons and gear, a hot shower before chow, a narrow but welcome rack to fall into and the oblivion of sleep. This time it was just a game, though an unpleasant one. Next time there might be somebody on the beach — somebody with automatic weapons and mortars hidden behind a tidewater minefield.

Next time, the ride might be one way. The MAU grunt knows this, accepts it, trains body and mind in preparation for it. That time could be soon, and he is proud to be a Marine.



BIGFOOT GUIDES SOF STAFFER

When a stranger comes aboard a Navy ship he is given an escort so he won't get lost. My escort was a red-haired ensign named Gregg Gruwell. At 6 feet, 8 inches, he was the tallest man on the ship, and his nickname was Big-foot.

Not that his feet were all that big. But when Bell Volcano began and the boatmaster heard "Away All Boats" over the ship's PA sys-

tem, he started eying Gruwell's shoes with a hungry look.

Bigfoot's job was to keep me out of harm's way and get me around the ship to observe and photograph every phase of the amphibious operation. That meant sometimes having to move from a narrow catwalk eight feet aft the stern and below the flight deck to a spot eight or nine decks up and half the length of the ship away in three or four minutes — while negotiating near-vertical ladders between decks and the hatch coamings for watertight doors that interrupt every corridor on the ship every dozen yards or so. I found that I'm just short enough to be able to stand upright on the hatch coaming without banging my head on the top lip. And I found that it was faster and safer — for me — to step up on the coaming and push off down the corridor. I could move at a fast dogtrot that way.

Trying to be helpful, Bigfoot offered to carry my 40-pound camera bag. But then I found myself deep in the bowels of the well deck, with three big landing boats about to exit — and the camera around my neck was empty. A dozen hatches back was my camera bag, clutched in Bigfoot's huge paw while he folded himself into a shape small enough to fit through the hatch.

After that we decided that, in order to move together, I needed a handicap — the bag. Then Bigfoot had two hands free to grasp the rails on either side of the ladders, take a couple of steps down until his head cleared the upper deck, then slide his lanky bulk quickly down the railing until he covered the short distance remaining to the lower deck.

I tried the slide stunt and fell half a ladder, head first. Fortunately, I landed on my camera bag.

Enclosed find a bill for the repair of one Nikon camera.

— M.W.

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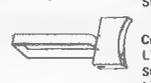
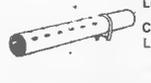
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most of the time she rides in the belly of the *Belleau Wood* — a world inside a world.

The *Bell's* mission is to take heavy equipment — usually tanks — into the beach during an amphibious assault. In combat, the predicted life expectancy of her skipper, a Navy Chief Boatswain's Mate, is about 30 seconds when the *Bell* gets within small-arms range of the beach.

Her crew of 14 — at combat strength — lives on the boat, even as it travels high and dry within the *Belleau Wood*. There are bunks, a couple of tiny state-rooms for the two chiefs aboard, a head, a lounge, even a galley with everything a cook could ask for, including a microwave oven. But while cooking for a small group usually yields tastier results than cooking for the thousands aboard the bigger ship, *Belleau Wood* policy outlaws cooking in the well deck, partly because of ventilation, partly because of the danger of fire.

The *Bell* is powered by twin GM high-speed "Detroit" diesels, and protected by three .50-cal machine guns. With tanks loaded, the tank guns may be fired from the boat as well, though there are sometimes aiming problems on a flat-bottomed boat with shallow draft — it pitches and rolls in even very light seas. Tanks with stabilized guns and computer-assisted aiming do just fine, however.

The *Bell* and others like her — the *Belleau Wood* can carry up to four LCUs — may also be used to carry up to 440 combat troops with their gear, though they probably wouldn't be in the first wave since the troops would be unprotected against even small-arms fire right up to the beach.

In action, the *Bell* would drop her two 1,500-pound anchors about 600 feet from shore, then drive right up on the beach and roll the tanks or debark troops through the bow ramp. To get off the beach, the engines would be reversed and winches would pull against the anchors until the boat was off the beach.

LCUs may also be used for a variety of other tasks, including hauling the largest trucks in the Marine Corps inventory, retrieving Marines and equipment from a beach, as a platform for salvage divers, hydrographic surveys, maintaining submarine cables or launching frogmen. — M.W.



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SOF MATCH

Continued from page 55

The assault match simulated a troop on patrol. Shooters began the run with the gun slung in a position for quick action. As they walked toward the target banks, a start whistle was blown, after which they could advance to firing point A and engage all the targets. A missed target cost a 10-point penalty. Competitors next advanced to point B and reengaged two banks of targets and a 10-inch-square steel timer-plate to stop their run. The plate was at 125 yards. It had to be hit within five shots or a time penalty was assessed.

The shotgun course was limited to 12-gauge only, but shooters could use any type of weapon. The match was broken into two stages, one using slugs and one using buckshot. Both were assault matches in which time played an important role. Shooters were forced to move and use barricades on both courses. The slug match used paper targets, scored, and the buckshot stage used special steel full-size-silhouette knock-down targets. Stage Two of the shotgun course required shooters to reload their shotguns with a minimum of two rounds to test their ability to recharge the weapon while under stress.

Many of the competitors selected auto shotguns for this match — the Remington 1100 was a popular choice — but they soon learned the disadvantage of taking a hunting weapon and putting an extended magazine on it. Guns designed to primarily use light field loads tend to wear rapidly under the pounding of full-combat charges.

Many of the crack shotgunners lost out due to weapon breakdowns. Others simply could not make it through the course with its tight time limits. John Shaw, 1981 IPSC U.S. Titlest, blazed through the course with his Remington 1100 shotgun to take the top spot.

During all matches, each shooter had to wear a sidearm and utilize the same holster that would be used for the 42-round handgun match. Since the pistol match was not IPSC-sanctioned nor power-factored, the .45 auto was the predominant weapon. The procedure used five stages of fire at ranges out to 35 meters. Californian Ray Neal scored 206 out of a possible 210 to win that portion of the invitational and Mike Dalton was second with 203. Craig Gifford scored 199 to take third place.

The reward you get in the field for mastering combat weapons is your life; the rewards at the SOF Match improved the quality of life for the winners with more than \$40,000 being given out in cash and prizes.

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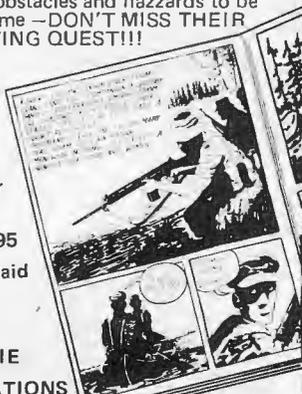
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Overall winner Craig Gifford received \$5000 in cash and other assorted loot for his victory. Second-place Brian Enos received awards totaling \$1500, and third-place John Shaw took \$1200 worth of goods back to camp.

Not only did the top 50 finishers receive cash and goods, but the top five in each event received special recognition. In the rifle competition: Craig Gifford's winning performance earned him a Springfield Armory BM-59, trophy, buckle, Bar-Sto barrel, B-Square mounts and a gift certificate from pistolsmith Mike Plaxco; for second place, Jim Scordato tucked an HK-91 with accessories under his arm. Lanny Provience received a Steyr-Mannlicher SSG rifle.

Ray Neal's first-place marksmanship in the pistol match netted him a cased M-S Safari Arms .45 auto, plus a trophy; second-place Mike Dalton got a Detonics' Special Combat .45 and goods. Third-place Craig Gifford received a Beretta 92SP plus prizes.

Which is better: the auto or pump shotgun? Well, the winner of the shotgun match, John Shaw, will have both to work with, as Garth Choate presented him with a Choate Remington 870 12-gauge and an 1100 auto in the same bore. Second-place J. Platt was also a recipient of Choate's generosity — a Choate Ruger Mini-14 .223. Arizona's Brian Enos received a Commando .45 for third place.

The invitational three-gun combat match held in conjunction with the *Soldier of Fortune* Convention will continue to be an annual event. Those who are interested in attending may drop me a letter: Jake Jatras, P.O. Box 626, Sioux City, IA 51102.



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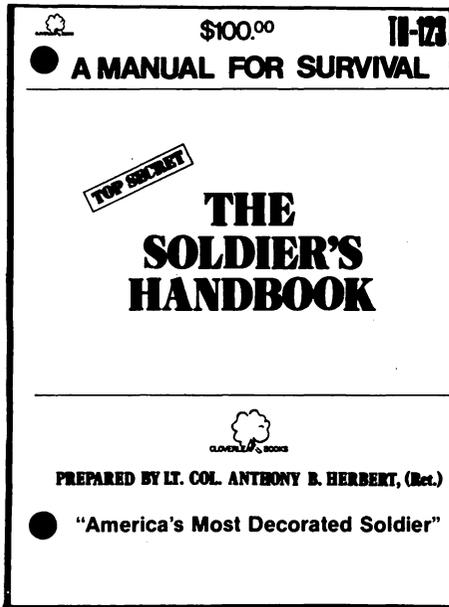
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RANGER

Continued from page 61

"When the coup started, the 1st Special Forces Group commander, Col. Robert Mills, wanted to see all traffic coming out of Korea. The first thing over his desk was, 'Pappy, I didn't do it. Dring.'

"What is this? Who is this?"

"So they called Sgt. Major Leechford: 'Why is Dring in Korea?'"

"He's got a lot of friends in Korea."

"And then the airplane came in with just me on it, and they got the message, 'Pick this dude up.' I was still wearin' a Korean uniform and, by this time — it was almost a day and a half now — I was beginning to smell ripe. I went in to see the colonel. All I had with me was a wallet, the passport and a handful of Korean MPC [Military Pay Currency] that I didn't have a chance to cash in.

"The colonel asked me, 'Did you know about the coup in advance?'"

"No, sir, I'm just a sergeant.' I was getting scared — getting thrown out of the country by a four-star general, and now they wanted to know what I knew. They were asking me, 'What did you have to do with it?' I didn't have anything to do with it. I really didn't, but nobody would believe it.

"What about the message?"

"I just sent it as a joke."

"By this time the coup had blown over, and everybody in Korea thought it was funny. But on Okinawa nobody thought it was funny. They wanted to know why I was there, why I had a Korean uniform, why I had a passport — and how come I was in the middle of it?"

"I told them I was going to jump. 'I want to get my wings.' (I got 'em. A Korean general whipped 'em on me. I had only four jumps but he gave 'em to me anyway.)

"About six months later, a SEATO [Southeast Asia Treaty Organization] Special Forces conference was held at Okinawa. They had people comin' in from New Zealand, Taiwan, the Philippines — and Korea. They needed personnel who had a TS [Top Secret] clearance to drive staff cars, and they got mostly Special Forces people, including me. I drove out and stood in line. Somebody got off a plane and the first driver got him.

"I stood there waitin' and Col. Mills was waitin' for a delegate — the one from Korea, Gen. Chou Moon Huan. The colonel was

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standing a little to the side when the general walked down the ramp. He got ready to walk over to him.

"But the general walked over to me and said, 'Ahh. Dring! How are you?' And the colonel gave me this who-is-this look.

"Everything had blown over, and here was this Korean general officer just off the airplane. 'I have something for you.' He didn't say what it was.

"I got it about three days later. It was a book of poetry he had written and had privately printed."

I had always wondered how Dring could be so kind and considerate in garrison and still have the reputation for unbridled ferocity in the field, but he told me a story that answered my question. It was not a jolly lark like the Korean coup story. It was an incident that changed Dring.

In 1962, he was on his first patrol in Vietnam. His team had been assigned to Camp Plei Do Lim. The countryside there has been described as being like the terrain around Fort Benning — pleasant, with mountains, but not high mountains; forested, but not densely forested. The Montagnards of the area, the Bahnar, are a gentle, friendly people. It's the sort of place where you'd like to go on a picnic.

Dring's guide was a SFC named Frank Quinn. Quinn was a dried-up little guy with about 27 Montagnard bracelets on his right arm. He chainsmoked overhand. He had been a prisoner of the VC early in the war. They had repatriated him with the warning that if he ever returned to Vietnam they would make a point of looking him up and killing him. He had three tours after that.

On the first day out, they went into a Bahnar village, and Dring held sick call. He treated everybody there, including one old man with emphysema — gave him a shot of Epinephrine, which would help for the couple of days before the patrol returned.

They made a five-day loop of the area and came back in through the first village to do a follow-up on the sick call. They discovered the VC had executed every man, woman and child there for "collaborating" with the Americans by letting Dring treat them.

Quinn put out a local security patrol and Dring was left to organize the strike force into a burial detail. Dring was sick. It was, I believe, the low point of his life.

Before all the bodies were buried, the local security patrol came back with a VC they had found on a hilltop with a PRC/6

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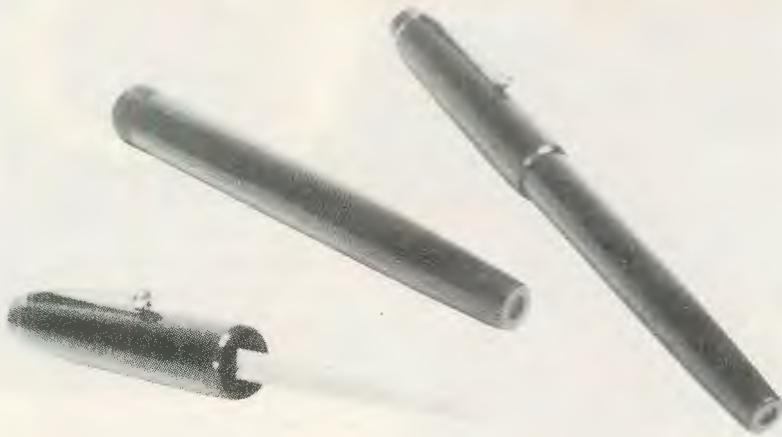
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radio.

"He was a real comedian," said Dring.

The VC, a barefoot young Vietnamese, was wearing tailored OD fatigues. He had a smirk on his face. He singsonged something in Vietnamese.

"What'd he say?" Dring demanded.

The interpreter told him that the kid had said, "You better be nice to me. The ARVN will let me go, and I might meet you in these woods again."

It was true. At the time the Vietnamese would turn loose Vietnamese VC who were captured fighting Montagnards.

Dring did not meet this lad in the mountains again.

He picked up a BAR and emptied a full magazine into him. When the strike force pulled him off he was holding the BAR by the barrel and trying to smash the corpse into a pulp with it.

When he tried to treat one of his own troops a few minutes later, he found that his hands were burned almost to the bone by the barrel of the BAR.

That incident conditioned Dring's attitude toward Vietnam. "I didn't think this was right, and I didn't think it ought to happen anymore," he said.

Dring spent most of the next five years trying to make sure that it didn't.

In a sense his efforts, and all of our efforts, paid off. FULRO, the Montagnard separatist organization, is still fighting in the highlands. Almost all of their troops are from the Special-Forces-trained Strike Force. In 1980, they took and held the city of Cheo Reo, a provincial capital, for two weeks, something the VC were never able to do when they were the guerrillas. Montagnard culture still survives in the highlands.

(To be concluded.)



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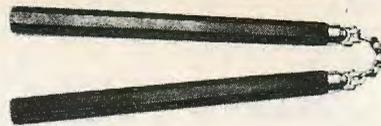
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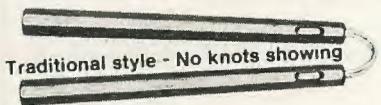


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GUNS, GUNS

Continued from page 35

brought together in one think tank the Western world's largest assemblage of military small-arms brain power. The 185 participants represented Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, England, Germany, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, in addition to all five branches of the U.S. military, the FBI and the Secret Service.

One of the most interesting briefings we received was given by Angelo Mancini (Deputy Chief, JSSAP Project Office, ARRADCOM, Dover, N.J.) on the M16 Rifle Improvement Program. The proposed M1A2 rifle, intended to serve as an interim system, pending the arrival of the next generation of infantry rifles, incorporates a number of significant modifications: a heavier barrel with a 1:7-inch twist to accommodate the new 62-grain SS109 bullet, a more durable handguard (it resembles the M16A1 carbine [CAR 15] forearm, only it's longer), a redesigned slip ring which will make the handguard easier to disassemble, a sturdier buttstock and pistol grip, a new upper receiver with rear sights out to 800 meters, a flash suppressor without bottom cuts (the absence of which should aid in the



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The Canadians, always models of terseness and efficiency, announced they are replacing the Sterling sub-machine gun and the FN C1A1 rifle with a single weapon — either the M16A2 just described or the Belgian FNC. The new Canadian squad automatic will be the XM 249 (MINIMI), with the only decision remaining whether to issue the weapon with one or two barrels.

The other symposium topics included presentations on Australia's future small arms; JSSAP updates on the pistol, submachine-gun, and advanced heavy-machine-gun programs; the FNC 5.56mm NATO carbine system; the Heckler & Koch G-11 caseless gun; helmet/body-armor developments; plastic training ammunition; naval line-throwing equipment; hypervelocity squeeze-bore, Raufoss multipurpose, and fin-forming cone ammunition; the Enfield semi-automatic anti-riot weapon; and European trends in light anti-aircraft guns.

The weapons fired during the range demonstration included the Soviet AK74, AK74S, RPK-74 (all in 5.45mm ComBloc), the SVD sniper rifle and the PK medium machine gun (both in 7.62mm Russian Rimmed); Hughes Chain Gun (EX-34) in 7.62mm NATO; the new M60 Light Weight (LW); the

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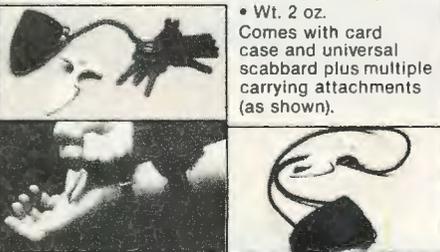
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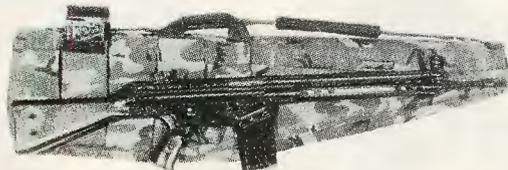
Without doubt, the objective of the symposium — which was to provide a common meeting ground for the exchange of information on small arms and crew-served weapons of current and future interest to NATO and Western nations — was more than well served.

Those interested in further information concerning the goals, activities and membership requirements of the American Defense Preparedness Association should address their inquiries to ADPA, Rosslyn Center, Suite 900, 1700 N. Moore Street, Arlington, VA 22209.



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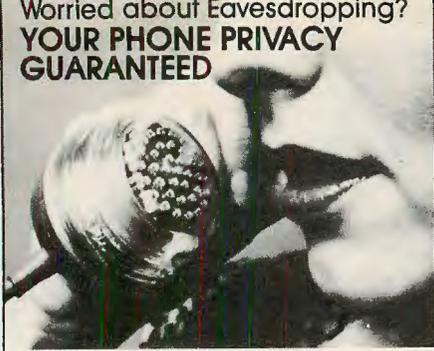
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SEYCHELLES

Continued from page 47

suitcases and golf bags; 3, an attack on military and political targets two to three weeks after 25 November, possibly in conjunction with a landing by an additional 100 men from the sailboat.

According to one South-African newspaper report, Maj. George Schroeder, a former member of Mike Hoare's 5 Commando, was approached to lead the raid. Schroeder claims that after he turned the job down, it was offered to Hoare, who has been living in Hilton, South Africa.

Troops were recruited all over South Africa, but most of the planning, plotting and recruiting took place in Durban, South Africa, specifically in the pub of the Riviera Hotel. On Thursday nights, former Rhodesian soldiers gather at the Club Le Chic in the Riviera. A number of Thursday-night regulars were not home immediately after the raid and were reported to be traveling by friends and neighbors — presumably, they were actually among the raiders.

Rhodesian soldiers, who now live in South Africa, have met varying degrees of success. Some are serving with South Africa's defense forces, but many of them have found the South African army too restrictive ("It's a salute-it-if-it-moves-paint-it-if-it-doesn't army," said one former Rhodesian troop) and have either joined or have gotten out as soon as their one-year contracts expired. Some ex-Rhodesians have landed security jobs in South Africa, but this work is risky.

The prime recruiters for the Seychelles operation — reported to be a Frenchman and a Belgian — found several recruits among the ex-Rhodesians. It is also assumed that some of the Rhodesians who joined the operation came from South Africa's 6th Recce (the "Red Devils"), an elite unit of parachute-qualified commandos who are primarily Rhodesians. The 6th was absorbed into another South African unit, the 1st Parabat, last year. More than 20 South Africans were also recruited.

"I just missed it," said one merc, in a Johannesburg hotel bar frequented by ex-Rhodesians. "I found out about it last weekend and agreed to go on Monday [23 November]. But when my contact talked with the leaders they said it was too late to get in. I didn't really like the plan that much — but what else is there to do?"

On Tuesday, 24 November, 44 of the raiders, posing as a rugby team, boarded a chartered bus at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport. Just before the bus pulled out, one of the team members placed a sticker on it, which read "AOFB '81" (the mercs' cover story was that their rugby team was on its way to the "Ancient Order of Foam Blowers" drinking fest in the Sey-

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chelles). As their bus rolled away, a car with two women inside followed.

The bus took the "team" to the Ermelo Holiday Inn where they stayed overnight. The women stayed in the Holiday Inn also, but did not obviously associate with the team. On Wednesday morning, the AOFB set out by bus for Swaziland, one of the independent states inside South Africa. En route to Swaziland's Matsapa Airport, a minibus with three other men joined the convoy which then crossed into Swaziland at the Oshoek border post.

After the team and its carry-on luggage were searched — hold baggage was neither searched nor X-rayed — they boarded a Royal Swazi Air Fokker F-28, on which they had 47 seats booked. The two women also boarded the Fokker. The Royal Swazi flight stopped first at the Comoros Islands (near Madagascar) where the two women got off. Some South African papers have speculated that the women promptly tipped off the Seychelles government, but this is unlikely in view of what happened afterward.

According to some South African and Seychelles sources, the Fokker landed and disembarked its passengers at Pointe Larue Airport, Mahe, Seychelles, without incident. The Royal Swazi pilot, Capt. James Farquharson, and First Officer Bob Kerr left the airport and took a bus to their hotel. Three Swazi hostesses stayed with the passengers, who were go-

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ing through customs.

Both South African and Seychelles sources indicate other mercs were waiting at the airport for the AOFB "team." Sources in both countries also indicate that some of the "team" had cleared customs when an incident occurred which triggered the battle for the airport.

According to mercs in Johannesburg, weapons were carried in golf bags, and a customs official became suspicious about the number of golfers on the rugby team. He looked into one bag and saw a folding-stock AKM among the clubs — and raised the alarm. On the other hand, an unnamed source from the Seychelles police said that the incident started when a customs man found a handgun in a false-bottomed suitcase. This source says that the mercs hid some of their weapons in false-bottomed suitcases which were covered by Christmas-wrapped toys from a Johannesburg toyshop. The toys were marked as gifts for disabled children. During customs inspection, one gun muzzle poked up through the holiday packages.

Whatever the giveaway, team members pulled out guns and quickly took over the passenger terminal and airport control tower. Then a fire fight began with troops stationed at the edge of the airport.

Farquharson, the Royal Swazi pilot, said he got a call at his hotel from one of the mercs, who told him of the attempted coup and its failure: Would he return to the airport and fly them out?

Farquharson refused.

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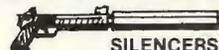
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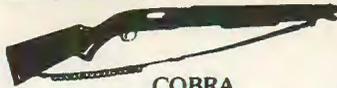
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His acceptance would not have helped — since the Seychelles military put two RPG-7 rounds through the Royal Swazi Airlines plane to ground it, eviscerating the twin-engined jet, which represents the entire Swazi fleet.

Meanwhile, Air India Flight 224 had left Salisbury. At approximately 10:10 p.m., Captain Saxema tried to raise the Pointe Larue tower without success. At 10:27, three minutes from his scheduled landing time, the Pointe Larue tower came up and gave him permission to land but requested landing deep on the runway. Saxema asked, "How deep?" He got no answer.

With flaps down and at landing speed, Saxema was just off the runway when he saw two Land Rovers ahead of him on it. He could not abort, so he put the plane down and started evasive maneuvers. He avoided the first but the 707's right-side flaps hit the second truck with a tremendous bang.

"The moment the wheels touched the tarmac, the landing lights were switched off and we taxied in darkness to the terminal buildings," said Saxema. When the aircraft's doors opened, two armed men boarded and ordered the air crew to turn off the interior lights and tell the passengers to pull down the blinds.

One merc told the passengers that they would not be harmed and to ignore bumps or noises around the plane as his men were checking it out (in reality, they were refueling the aircraft). Saxema and

Co-Pilot S.N. Misra were ordered to the terminal. As the pilot, who did not yet realize what was happening, raced to the terminal, he heard firing from several points around the airport. After being held in the terminal, the two pilots were told to inspect the runway to make sure takeoff was possible.

The runway was clear. An inspection of the right-side flaps by Flight Engineer P.V. Joshi — done on his knees while small-arms and mortar attacks punctuated the darkness — showed that they were stuck at a 40-degree angle, which would create too much drag for a safe takeoff. Saxema decided, however, to attempt it, after the 44 mercs boarded (with a dead comrade who was loaded into the cargo hold).

Tom, the mercs' leader, told Saxema to fly to Johannesburg. When the lights came on, the Air India passengers saw 44 mercs, including one with a gun-shot wound. A Cape Town, South Africa, shopkeeper who was a passenger, told the Johannesburg *Sunday Tribune*:

"Piet — one of the mercenaries — bought drinks for the white Rhodesian girl across the aisle from us. He and Lynn — that was her name — drank out of the same glass. He was very friendly towards her, and after a while went to sleep with his head on her lap and his gun at his feet."

When Flight 224 entered South African air space, the country's authorities — who may have been aware of what was going on by then — diverted the plane to Durban where it landed at Louis Botha Airport at 5:00 a.m.

After six hours of negotiation, the mercs released the passengers. Then South African police boarded and brought off the 44 remaining men. The mercs were first taken to Wonderboom Airbase near Pretoria, then to Pretoria Central Prison and finally were transferred to Sonderwater Prison near Cullinan, Transvaal.

One of the original party of 47, which came in on Royal Swazi, was killed in the action at Pointe Larue. Two, Aubrey Brooks, a Rhodesian, and Roger England, a Briton, stayed behind to hold off the Seychelles troops while the Air India flight took off. Both men were captured, as were five of the eight-man advance party, who had arrived before the 25th. Three are reported by Seychelles police to be hiding in the green hills of the 28-kilometer-long and eight-kilometer-wide island. Among them is Charles Duke, identified as an American.

One merc, who was recognized as police led off the 44 hijackers, was Peter Duffy of Durban. Duffy, a well-known free-lance photographer in Durban, served with Hoare's 5 Commando in the Congo.

On 2 December, South Africa released 39 of the 44 mercs without charges. The other five, including leader Mike Hoare and Martin Dolincheck, 43, were charged with kidnapping and set free on bail.

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Hoare's bail was \$10,500. Dolinckek has admitted to being a senior South African intelligence officer.

The kidnapping charges against the five apparently mean that they will not be brought to court under South Africa's stiff anti-hijacking law, which calls for sentences of up to 30 years and a mandatory minimum sentence of five years.

The lesser charge may be difficult to prove since the mercenaries never intended to hold the 65 passengers and 14 crew members for ransom. In addition, it appears unlikely that the Indians or other foreigners on the flight will be allowed by their governments to return to South Africa to testify.

According to a list released by the South African government on 3 December, the 44 mercenaries included 23 South Africans, nine Britons, five Rhodesians, two West Germans, one Irishman, one American, one Australian and one Austrian. SOF has identified the American as Barry Francis Gribbon.

One merc in Johannesburg, who knew of the operation and knew some of the men involved, whom I contacted on Saturday, 28 November, and asked about the raid, said, "Well, it certainly gives us a bad name. It was dumb to try and smuggle the weapons in through the airport like that. You're much better off dropping in [parachuting] or coming by boat."

Presumably thinking about his

friends, he lifted his glass and said distinctly: "Cheers, mates."



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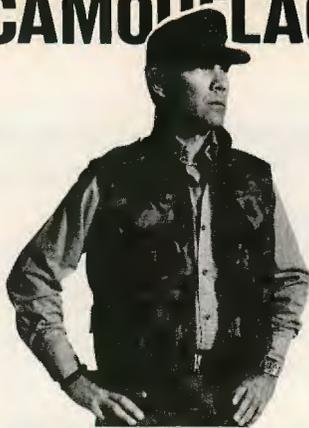
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by Bob Poos



Continued from page 4

NO MORE BATF ...

In case you haven't heard, it's official — the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is being disbanded.

Its agents are being reassigned to the Secret Service and the Customs System.

A Treasury Department spokesman said the move will save taxpayers about \$12 million a year.

CIA GETS SOF SUBS ...

SOF received a phone call from a lady in the purchasing department of the Central Intelligence Agency the other day. She said the Agency was receiving only two copies of the magazine and needed five.

Asked why they required more, she said: "The agents pass them around; sometimes they get lost and if these guys don't get their SOF, they really get upset."

REMEMBER TRINH VAN THUOC ...

U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division (mechanized) sources at Fort Carson, Colo., inform SOF that they received an unusual request recently from former Vietnamese army sergeant Trinh Van Thuoc.

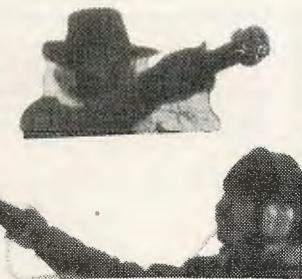
Thuoc served with the Division's First Brigade from 1967 to 1970, when the Fourth was based in Vietnam's Central Highlands, as a guide and interpreter in the area around Dak To, Black Hawk and An Khe.

He escaped from communist-ruled Vietnam this year with his mother and four children. However, he was unable to get his wife and an infant child out of the country.

Thuoc is now in a Philippines refugee center awaiting approval to immigrate with his family to America. In order to do this, he must obtain documentation that he actually served with U.S. forces. Thus he is seeking soldiers he served with who remember him.

Anyone who recalls knowing Thuoc may contact the Fort Carson Public Affairs Office, attn., Special Projects, Fort Carson, CO 10913, or contact the U.S. Justice Dept., Office of Immigration and Naturalization Services, in Washington, D.C.

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SOF STAFFER COMMANDS BRIGADE ...

From 27 July through 8 August 1981, SOF Contributing Editor/Military Affairs Alexander McColl, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, commanded the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), at Fort Carson, Colo.

This active-duty "counterpart training" tour was arranged for a period when the active Army brigade commander, Col. Robert G. Moscatelli, was at Camp Atterbury, Ind., evaluating a National Guard infantry brigade on its annual training.

Major units of 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) are two tank battalions, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, and 4th Battalion, 40th Armor, and one mechanized infantry battalion, the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry — about 2,000 troops in all.

Among other activities during this period, Col. McColl brought SOF Executive Editor Bob Poos to Fort Carson to brief key personnel on his adventures and the situation in El Salvador.

McColl reports being favorably impressed with the high morale, serious professional attitude and excellent physical fitness of the troops in his brigade and at Fort Carson.

HEART OF GOLD ...

A mountain of gold has been found in Brazil's Amazon jungle, and thousands of prospectors are rushing to the site, known as the Sierra Prelada Gold Pit.

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De Silva is quoted as saying he is building what he promises will be "the most modern house of prostitution in the Amazon region for my miner friends."

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION ...

SOF Contributing Editor on Military History, Bill Brooks, himself a five-year veteran of the French Foreign Legion, has these suggestions and advice for men interested in joining it:

Anyone seriously contemplating enlistment in the French Foreign Legion should know the following information.

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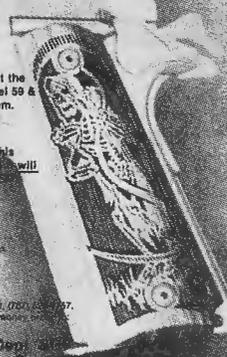
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If you don't want to waste money on taxi fare, just go as far as the closest *metro* (subway) station. Take the *metro* to Pte. de Vincennes and from there take a cab. From Metro Vincennes to Fort de Nogent is about 15 minutes.

If you are in a hurry, just take a taxi to the closest police station (*Poste de Police Nationale*). Once there, present a slip of paper to the desk, saying you want to enlist in the Foreign Legion: *Je veux de engage avec la Legion Etrangere*.

The best time to report to Fort de Nogent is on Thursday. You will be sent, by train, to Aubagne on Friday night. The less time spent in Fort de Nogent the better.

Be prepared for one month of pure boredom. Take plenty of paperback books, an English-French dictionary and two months' supply of cigarettes. Do not expect to write home for at least two months. Take toilet articles, toilet paper, four OD T-shirts, four pairs of jockey shorts and four pairs of boot socks.

If you can wear your own black military boots you won't have to break in a pair of French boots.

Go to the dentist before you leave the States and have all of your dental work done and your teeth cleaned. You will not see another good dentist for five years. In fact, there are no good dentists in France.

You will be required to answer some questions. If you are divorced or separated from your wife keep the information to yourself. If you don't you may not be permitted to receive or send mail. If you have prior service, take your DA 214 and a copy of your discharge. Do not take any awards. They will be stolen.

Once you have completed your five-year enlistment, your passport and papers will be returned. Your passport will have expired. Go to the American consulate in Marseilles and get it renewed. Learn some French; it will be a great help.

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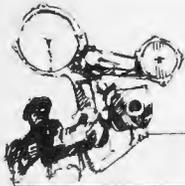
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MARINE HELICOPTER . . .

Reader Stan Cunningham, 28 Foxbrier, Slidell, LA 70458, seeks any information available on Operation Bold Pursuit and any other missions participated in by the Marine 265th Helicopter Squadron, including Meade River, Operation Arkansas, Ahn Hua, Barrier Island or Chu Lai.





FLAK

Continued from page 6

of the 57,692 men who died in the war will be carved. Their names will not appear in alphabetical order but in the chronological sequence in which they died. The name of the war is not mentioned on this monument.

My objection is based on the clear political message of this design. It says that the Vietnam War should be memorialized in black rather than the white marble of Washington. This method of listing the names makes them individual deaths, not deaths in a cause: They could as well have been traffic-accident statistics. The monument's invisibility at ground level symbolizes the "unmentionability" of the war (reinforced by its not being mentioned on the monument itself).

It does not appear that there were any veterans on the jury which chose this design. If it is constructed, I'm afraid it will be a perpetual disgrace to our country and an insult to the courage and memory of the men who died in Southeast Asia. If this thing must be built, stick it off in some tidal flat and let it memorialize Jane Fonda's contribution to ensuring that our soldiers died in vain.

Let us memorialize our dead in the Vietnam War with suitable sculpture — as if they died at Gettysburg or in the Ardennes. They are the Americans who gave their lives to their country and to history in Southeast Asia.

Sincerely,
Michael L. Scanlan
Media, Pennsylvania

We too share your concern about the design of the Vietnam War Memorial. See our article on p. 26 of this issue. — The Eds.

LET'S SLIP INTO LAOS ...

Sirs:

Having just finished reading "The War That Never Ended" (SOF, January '82), I'd like you to know that I would be willing to lend my medical/combat experience and knowledge to the LULF (Laos United Liberation Front) in its effort to ward off the communists in that area. One of the photos showed SOF medic Tom Reisinger teaching a medical class. As a former "Boc-si" with a Marine rifle company in the DMZ, RVN, I can imagine the problems he encountered. While in Vietnam I was cross-trained in communications and use

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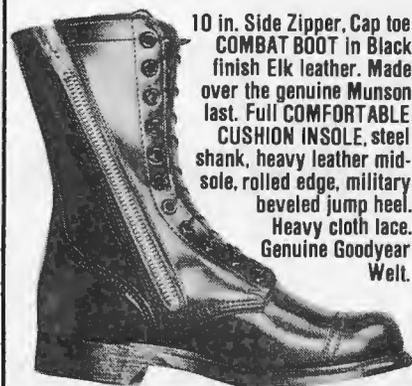
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of the .45, M14, M16 and M79 grenade launcher. I am 34, apolitical and have no strong family ties.

I remain,
R.H.

Rochester, New York

Unfortunately, the LULF does not have the funds to pay airfare or expenses, much less a salary to foreign advisers. However, thanks for your offer. — The Eds.

A TANK IN TIME ...

Sirs:

I'm sure somebody else must have noticed by now, but in "To Russia With Love" (SOF, January '82) that tank on p. 36 isn't a T-34 but a PT-76 with the latest 76mm gun. (If you've ever seen one up close, they're hard to forget.)

Thanks,
Dennis A. Luettker
Cass City, Michigan

Thanks to our many sharp-eyed readers who corrected the above photo caption. — The Eds.

NICARAGUAN FUND ...

Sirs:

I'm glad to be able to send the enclosed material to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters Project. You should take personal satisfaction helping a people that official America has ignored.

While my Army service did not include a tour in Vietnam, I was in a college ROTC unit in 1970-71. As you can imagine, it wasn't any fun walking across campus in uniform during the peace demonstrations. I can still feel the hateful stares I used to get because I believed in America more than I believed in instant gratification.

Now I see the crowds against U.S. aid to El Salvador, marching as in the '70s, singing the same songs, applauding the same speeches, and I am amazed at the lack of intellectual growth shown by these protesters. If you substitute El Salvador for Vietnam, you'll find there isn't a single new slogan, song or idea. When 1990 arrives, I won't be surprised to find them still marching in protest and giving the same mindless, knee-jerk responses to the same rabble-raising speeches.

On the other hand, I feel that the rest of us have learned something and matured since the early '70s. Those who help you clothe and aid freedom-seeking people are doing more for freedom and individual rights than all the protest marchers ever will.

The real beauty of SOF's project is that these freedom-loving people still have to regain their own land by themselves. This allows them to keep their self-respect and dignity. When they win they will owe us nothing, but I hope we will have regained

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Thank you,
Eugene E. Sunkel, D.D.S.
Paris, Illinois

USING THE UZI ...

Sirs:

Peter Kokalis' "SOF Tests the Uzis" (September '81) contained some poor advice. Taping the grip safety down should not be done, especially on the SMG version. The grip safety eliminates most accidental firings. Forces that could cause the bolt to partially cycle and fire include jumping from a truck, parachuting or butt-stroking an adversary. Proper training should eliminate most moments of hesitation that may occur in field use. Leave the weapons unaltered as far as safety devices.

People who want a semi-auto Uzi equipped with a 10.2-inch barrel (as in the SMG) have a legal way. For \$200 and the proper completion of ATF Form 1, qualifying persons may obtain permission to shorten their barrel. Amazingly, the local ATF people were courteous and helpful when I approached them on this subject.

Respectfully,
Don Dineen
North Bend, Washington

Peter Kokalis replies:

Obviously, taping the grip safety on an Uzi, or any other submachine gun with this feature, cancels one of the safety devices on the system. However, I know of no "proper training" that will eliminate sweating during the heat of combat, which can cause the hand to slide off the rear of the grip assembly. Furthermore, as I stated in the article, the full-auto version has a third safety in the form of a ratchet on the bolt-retracting slide, which locks the bolt if the retracting knob is accidentally released from an incomplete cocking motion. Those who will either be jumping from vehicles or parachuting would be well advised to do so with the bolt forward on an empty chamber, minimizing the possibility of dirt entering the receiver during the PLF — then charging the bolt open upon hitting the deck. Anyone contemplating butt-stroking an adversary with a folding-stock Uzi, or any submachine gun for that matter, needs psychiatric relief from his fantasies, and would surely be out of ammo anyway.

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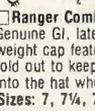
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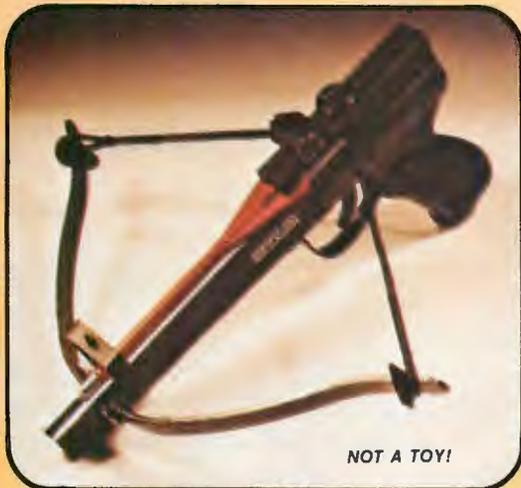
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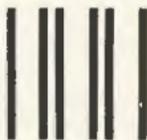
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Knife Honors Battle

The American Historical Foundation, in cooperation with military associations and historical societies, is proud to pay tribute to this heroic victory through the issuance of the Invasion of Iwo Jima Commemorative Fighting Knife.

If you choose to be among the few who reserve this tribute, you will own a legacy of one of the proudest moments in American history. It will serve as a constant reminder of the gallantry of our combat men on Iwo Jima. To future generations of your family it will serve as a lasting reminder of your interest in military history and quite possibly of your participation, or the participation of one of your relatives, in the heroic Iwo Jima assault. It will be a source of pride today—and to those who follow in the future.

Old Glory being raised high atop Mount Suribachi is deeply etched in the center of the presentation face of the blade. Flanking this are elaborate laurel-wreathed banners inscribed: "In Honor of the Invasion of Iwo Jima, 11 November 1944—16 March 1945." Matching etched banners on the blade reverse proclaim Admiral Nimitz's

praise: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Authentic World War II Fighting Knife

A fighting knife was selected for this tribute because it represents Americans' willingness to close on their enemy. The classic Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife was selected because it was one of the most famous knives of World War II. A former Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps who carried one called it "the finest military knife ever made." Originally designed in 1940 for British Commando raiding parties, this deadly knife was carried by Commando-trained U.S. Marine Raiders, U.S. Army Rangers and numerous elite combat units of many Allied nations.

This is *not* simply a reproduction, but a genuine handmade F-S Fighting Knife reissued in a limited edition by one of the oldest knifemaking firms in England—H.G. Long & Co., established in 1846. Long & Co. of Sheffield has a rich tradition of excellence in edged weapons for front-line fighting men, and each knife will bear their famous crossed daggers trademark. Experts agree that the historical significance and the high quality craftsmanship will make this knife greatly sought after by military men and collectors.

For the first time in history, your knife will be handmade with a grip of heavy lathe-turned brass. By 1942 when this "ribbed-hilt" pattern was introduced, inexpensive zinc alloy had to be substituted for wartime production—brass was needed for ammunition. Brass greatly enhances the balance, increases the thrusting power, and is much crisper in appearance.

24 Karat Gold-Covered Hilt

Also for the first time, genuine 24-karat gold will cover the grip, top nut and crossguard, enhancing the beauty and value of your knife.

The blade will begin as a red hot billet of high carbon sword steel. A skilled British bladesmith will forge, harden and temper it to battle-worthy strength. Then he will precision hand grind and polish it to a gleaming mirror finish. When you grasp the gold-covered grip in your hand and sense the concentration of thrusting power in the forged stiletto sharp tip, you will know this is one of the most beautiful, yet deadly combat-worthy weapons ever made.

Limited, Individually Numbered Edition

This issue is strictly limited to 2500 worldwide. Each knife will have its own registry number engraved on the blade. The Certificate of Authenticity will also bear this number and attest to the edition limit and the purity of the 24-karat gold.

To display your knife, you will receive one of the most elegant cases ever created for a weapon. It is covered, lined and fitted with rich scarlet velvet and mounted with two brass slide locks and hinges. The inner lid is white satin, gold tooled with the Iwo Jima commemorative inscription. Included in the case you will also receive an actual photograph of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima.

In addition, you will be made a member of The American Historical Foundation and have the opportunity, prior to the public, to reserve subsequent limited edition issues in this series, with matching registry numbers. These knives, with different spectacular finishes and materials, will honor other major World War II Allied victories. As a member you will also receive, at no expense, hard to obtain expert information concerning military history and the care, display, history and collecting of knives and militaria.

How To Reserve

This is available only through The American Historical Foundation. You may write, call, personally visit or use the reservation form below. Reservations will be acknowledged immediately in writing. Requests for special registry numbers will be honored if possible. You may send a deposit or payment in full. After you receive your knife you may inspect it for a full 30 days prior to deciding to keep it. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

Prompt action is suggested to avoid the inevitability of higher prices and the completion of the reservation roster for this strictly limited edition.

RESERVATION

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return in 30 Days for Full Refund

To: The American Historical Foundation

1316 West Main Street, Dept. SOF-8

Richmond, Virginia 23220

Telephone (804) 353-1812

24-hour toll free reservations (800) 558-8133

I enclose a \$45 deposit for the numbered and registered Iwo Jima Commemorative Fighting Knife, velvet-lined presentation case, Certificate of Authenticity, Iwo Jima Flag-raising photograph, Foundation membership and first option for other World War II tributes. Please invoice me prior to delivery for the balance. No shipping charges.

I enclose \$295 as payment in full.

Name.....

Address.....

For Visa, MasterCard, or American Express, please send account number, expiration date and signature. Virginia residents add tax.